

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

comprises a cytoplasmic tail polypeptide which is capable of apoptotic signaling or otherwise promoting apoptosis. The invention therefore contemplates these and other embodiments according to the present invention in which two or more polypeptide sequences that are present in a construct, for example a fusion protein, have independent
5 genetic origins.

As noted above, in certain embodiments the construct, for example a binding protein-immunoglobulin fusion protein, comprises at least one native or engineered immunoglobulin variable region polypeptide, which may be a native or engineered light chain or a native or engineered heavy chain variable region polypeptide,
10 and in certain embodiments the fusion protein comprises at least one such native or engineered light chain V-region and one such native or engineered heavy chain V-region and at least one linker peptide that is fused or otherwise connected to to each of the native or engineered V-regions. Construction of such binding domains, for example single chain Fv domains, is known in the art and is described in greater detail in the Examples below,
15 and has been described, for example, in various documents cited herein; selection and assembly of single-chain variable regions and of linker polypeptides that may be fused or otherwise connected to each of a heavy chain-derived and a light chain-derived V region (*e.g.*, to generate a binding region, such as a binding domain that comprises a single-chain Fv polypeptide) is also known to the art and described herein. See, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos.
20 5,869,620, 4,704,692, and 4,946,778. In certain embodiments all or a portion or portions of an immunoglobulin sequence that is derived from a non-human source may be "humanized" according to recognized procedures for generating humanized antibodies, *i.e.*, immunoglobulin sequences into which human Ig sequences are introduced to reduce the degree to which a human immune system would perceive such proteins as foreign (see,
25 *e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,693,762; 5,585,089; 4,816,567; 5,225,539; 5,530,101; and documents cited therein).

Constructs of the invention, including binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, as described herein may, according to certain embodiments, desirably comprise sites for glycosylation, *e.g.*, covalent attachment of carbohydrate moieties such
30 as, for example, monosaccharides or oligosaccharides. Incorporation of amino acid sequences that provide substrates for polypeptide glycosylation is within the scope of the relevant art, including, for example, the use of genetic engineering or protein engineering

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

methodologies to obtain a polypeptide sequence containing, for example, the classic Asn-X-Ser/Thr site for N-(asparagine)-linked glycosylation, or a sequence containing Ser or Thr residues that are suitable substrates for O-linked glycosylation, or sequences amenable to C-mannosylation, glypiation/glycosylphosphatidylinositol modification, or phosphoglycation, all of which can be identified according to art-established criteria (e.g.,
5 Spiro, 2002 *Glyobiology* 12:43R). Without wishing to be bound by any particular theory or mechanism, glycosylated constructs such as fusion proteins having particular amino acid sequences may beneficially possess attributes associated with one or more of improved solubility, enhanced stability in solution, enhanced physiological stability, improved
10 bioavailability including in vivo biodistribution, and superior resistance to proteases, all in a statistically significant manner, relative to constructs, including fusion proteins, having the same or highly similar amino acid sequences but lacking glycosyl moieties. In certain preferred embodiments the subject invention constructs, such as fusion protein constructs, may comprise a glycosylation site that is present in a linker as provided herein, and in
15 certain other preferred embodiments the subject invention construct, for example, a fusion protein, comprises a glycosylation site that is present in a connecting region, such as a hinge region polypeptide sequence as provided herein.

In certain preferred embodiments of the present invention, such as those useful for gene therapy applications or in display systems or assays, such as screening
20 assays (including library display systems and library screening assays), the construct, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein, is a protein or glycoprotein that is capable of being expressed by a host cell such that it localizes to the cell surface. Constructs, such as binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, that localize to the cell surface may do so by virtue of having naturally present or artificially introduced
25 structural features that direct the fusion protein to the cell surface (e.g., Nelson *et al.* 2001 *Trends Cell Biol.* 11:483; Ammon *et al.*, 2002 *Arch. Physiol. Biochem.* 110:137; Kasai *et al.*, 2001 *J. Cell Sci.* 114:3115; Watson *et al.*, 2001 *Am. J. Physiol. Cell Physiol.* 281:C215; Chatterjee *et al.*, 200 *J. Biol. Chem.* 275:24013) including by way of illustration and not limitation, secretory signal sequences, leader sequences, plasma membrane anchor domain
30 polypeptides and transmembrane domains such as hydrophobic transmembrane domains (e.g., Heuck *et al.*, 2002 *Cell Biochem. Biophys.* 36:89; Sadlish *et al.*, 2002 *Biochem J.* 364:777; Phoenix *et al.*, 2002 *Mol. Membr. Biol.* 19:1; Minke *et al.*, 2002 *Physiol. Rev.*

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

82:429) or glycosylphosphatidylinositol attachment sites ("glypiation" sites, e.g., Chatterjee *et al.*, 2001 *Cell Mol. Life Sci.* **58**:1969; Hooper, 2001 *Proteomics* **1**:748; Spiro, 2002 *Glycobiol.* **12**:43R), cell surface receptor binding domains, extracellular matrix binding domains, or any other structural feature that causes at least a desired portion of the fusion protein population to localize, in whole or in part, to the cell surface. Particularly preferred are fusion protein constructs that comprise a plasma membrane anchor domain which includes a transmembrane polypeptide domain, typically comprising a membrane spanning domain which includes a hydrophobic region capable of energetically favorable interaction with the phospholipid fatty acyl tails that form the interior of the plasma membrane bilayer. Such features are known to those of ordinary skill in the art, who will further be familiar with methods for introducing nucleic acid sequences encoding these features into the subject expression constructs by genetic engineering, and with routine testing of such constructs to verify cell surface localization of the product.

According to certain further embodiments, a plasma membrane anchor domain polypeptide comprises such a transmembrane domain polypeptide and also comprises a cytoplasmic tail polypeptide, which refers to a region or portion of the polypeptide sequence that contacts the cytoplasmic face of the plasma membrane and/or is in contact with the cytosol or other cytoplasmic components. A large number of cytoplasmic tail polypeptides are known that comprise the intracellular portions of plasma membrane transmembrane proteins, and discrete functions have been identified for many such polypeptides, including biological signal transduction (e.g., activation or inhibition of protein kinases, protein phosphatases, G-proteins, cyclic nucleotides and other second messengers, ion channels, secretory pathways), biologically active mediator release, stable or dynamic association with one or more cytoskeletal components, cellular differentiation, cellular activation, mitogenesis, cytostasis, apoptosis and the like (e.g., Maher *et al.*, 2002 *Immunol. Cell Biol.* **80**:131; El Far *et al.*, 2002 *Biochem J.* **365**:329; Teng *et al.*, 2002 *Genome Biol.* 2REVIEWS:3012; Simons *et al.*, 2001 *Cell Signal* **13**:855; Furie *et al.*, 2001 *Thromb. Haemost.* **86**:214; Gaffen, 2001 *Cytokine* **14**:63; Dittel, 2000 *Arch. Immunol. Ther. Exp. (Warsz.)* **48**:381; Parnes *et al.*, 2000 *Immunol. Rev.* **176**:75; Moretta *et al.*, 2000 *Semin. Immunol.* **12**:129; Ben Ze'ev, 1999 *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* **886**:37; Marsters *et al.*, 2000 *Recent Prog. Horm. Res.* **54**:225).

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Figure 70 illustrates the binding, for example, of fluorocine-conjugated FcR3 (CD16) soluble fusion proteins to 2H7 scFv-binding domain constructs that are attached to CD20 expressed by cells, CHO cells in this example. CD16 binding to a construct of the invention, for example, scFv-binding domain construct, provides one example of a screening tool that may be used to detect and/or quantitate changes in CD16 binding to altered constructs of the invention, including scFv-binding domain constructs, that contains targeted or site-specific mutations, substitutions, deletions, or other alterations. Changes in CD16 binding properties may be reflected, for example, by changes in binding of either CD16 high affinity protein (158V) or CD16 low affinity protein (158F) or both.

A schematic representation of one example of such a screening process is diagrammed in the second drawing in Figure 70, in which scFv-binding domain constructs are displayed on the cell surface of mammalian cells. scFv-binding domain molecules in this example are displayed on the cell surface through a molecule that serves as a transmembrane domain anchor. These molecules may represent, for example, a single scFv-binding domain construct or may be introduced into a population of mammalian cells as a library of such molecules. Transfected cells with altered binding properties can then, for example, be panned, sorted, or otherwise isolated from other cells by altering the stringency of the selection conditions and using CD16 fusion proteins as a binding probe. Cells that express scFv-Ig molecules with altered binding to either CD16 high affinity allele (158V) or CD16 low affinity allele (158F) or both, for example, can be isolated.

This display system can be used, for example, to create a library of constructs of the invention with mutated or otherwise altered tail regions with short stretches of CH2 sequence replaced with randomized oligonucleotides or, for example, randomization of a single residue with all possible amino acid substitutions, natural or unnatural, including synthetic amino acids. Once such a library is constructed, it can be transfected into appropriate cells, for example, COS cells, by methods known in the art. Transfectants can then be bound to, for example, labeled CD16 constructs, and panned or sorted based on their relative or desired binding properties to multiple allelotypes/isoforms. Desired cells may be harvested, and the DNA, for example, plasmid DNA, isolated and then transformed into, for example, bacteria. This process may be repeated iteratively multiple times until desired single clones are isolated from the mammalian host cells. See

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Seed B and Aruffo A, *Pro. Nat'l Acad Sci USA* 1987 **84**:3365-3369; Aruffo A and Seed B, *Pro. Nat'l Acad Sci USA* 1987 **84**:8573-8577.

One such use of this type of screening system, for example, is for the identification and/or isolation of constructs of the invention having tail regions, or tail regions, that bind equally well to both the high and low affinity alleles of CD16 with the goal of improving effector functions mediated by scFv-binding domain constructs in multiple subpopulations of patients. Constructs of the invention having tail regions, or tail regions with altered binding properties to other Fc receptors can also be selected using such a display system, for example, the display system described. Other display systems that do not glycosylate proteins, for example, those that use bacteriophage or yeast, are not generally desired for selection of constructs of the invention having Ig-based tail regions, or Ig-based tail regions, with altered FcR binding properties. Most non-mammalian systems, for example, do not glycosylate proteins.

Expression of constructs of the invention, for example, scFv-binding domain constructs, expressed on the surface of a mammalian cell by incorporation of an appropriate molecule into the construct, for example, by incorporation of a transmembrane domain or a GPI anchor signal, also have utility in other display systems that are useful, for example, for selection of constructs of the invention, for example, altered scFv-binding domain molecules that will be produced at higher or other desired levels. In one such embodiment, cells that are useful in the production of glycosylated proteins, for example, mammalian cells such as COS cells, are transfected with a library of scFv-binding domain constructs in a plasmid that directs their expression to the cell surface. Cells, such as COS cells, that express the highest or other desired level of the scFv-binding domain molecules are selected by techniques known in the art (for example panning, sterile cell sorting, magnetic bead separation, *etc.*), and DNA, for example, plasmid DNA, is isolated for transformation into other cells, for example, bacteria. After one or more rounds of selection single clones are isolated that encode scFv-binding domain molecules capable of a high or other desired level of expression. The isolated clones may then be altered to remove the membrane anchor and expressed in an appropriate cells system, for example, a mammalian cell system, wherein the scFv-binding domain constructs will be produced, for example, by secretion into the culture fluid at desired levels. Without being bound by any particular mechanism or theory, this is believed to result from the common requirement of

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

secreted glycoproteins and cell surface glycoproteins for a signal peptide and processing through the golgi for expression. Thus, selection for a molecule that shows an improvement expression levels on a cell surface will also result in the identification of a molecule having an improvement in levels of secreted protein.

5 These display systems utilizing a construct of the invention may also be used for screening and/or identifying and/or isolating affinity variants of the binding domain within a construct.

Particularly preferred are such display and/or screening systems, for example, that include or use constructs that include (1) an immunoglobulin variable region polypeptide sequence, including native or engineered V_H and/or V_L and/or single-chain variable region (scFv) sequences, and which include, for example, a mutation, alteration or deletion at an amino acid at a location or locations corresponding to one or more of amino acid positions 9, 10, 11, 12, 108, 110, 111, and 112, in a V_H region sequence (including in a V_H region sequence within an scFv or other construct), and/or (2) an immunoglobulin variable region polypeptide sequence, including native or engineered V_H and/or V_L and/or single-chain variable region (scFv) sequences, and which include, for example, a mutation, alteration or deletion at a location or locations corresponding to one or more of amino acid positions 12, 80, 81, 82, 83, 105, 106, 107 and 108 in a light chain variable region sequence (including in a V_L region sequence within an scFv or other construct). Especially preferred are such display and/or screening systems that include or use constructs that include an engineered V_H sequence (whether or not associated with one or more other sequences, including immunoglobulin-derived and other sequences contained, for example, within an scFv or scFv-containing construct), which includes a mutation, alteration or deletion at an amino acid at a location or locations corresponding to amino acid position 11. The V_H11 amino acid, if substituted, may be substituted with another amino acid as described herein, or by another molecule as desired.

In the context of other methods of using constructs of the invention, including binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, for the treatment of a malignant condition or a B cell disorder(s) as provided herein, including, for example, by one or more of a number of gene therapy methods and related construct delivery techniques, the present invention also contemplates certain embodiments wherein a construct, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein that comprises a

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

plasma membrane anchor domain polypeptide is expressed (or capable of expression) at a cell surface and may further comprise a cytoplasmic tail polypeptide which comprises an apoptosis signaling polypeptide sequence. A number of apoptosis signaling polypeptide sequences are known to the art, as reviewed, for example, in *When Cells Die: A Comprehensive Evaluation of Apoptosis and Programmed Cell Death* (R.A. Lockshin *et al.*, Eds., 1998 John Wiley & Sons, New York; see also, *e.g.*, Green *et al.*, 1998 *Science* 281:1309 and references cited therein; Ferreira *et al.*, 2002 *Clin. Canc. Res.* 8:2024; Gurumurthy *et al.*, 2001 *Cancer Metastas. Rev.* 20:225; Kanduc *et al.*, 2002 *Int. J. Oncol.* 21:165). Typically an apoptosis signaling polypeptide sequence comprises all or a portion of, or is derived or constructed from, a receptor death domain polypeptide, for instance, FADD (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. Nos. U24231, U43184, AF009616, AF009617, NM_012115), TRADD (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. No. NM_003789), RAIDD (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. No. U87229), CD95 (FAS/Apo-1; *e.g.*, Genbank Acc. Nos. X89101, NM_003824, AF344850, AF344856), TNF- α -receptor-1 (TNFR1, *e.g.*, Genbank Acc. Nos. S63368, AF040257), DR5 (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. No. AF020501, AF016268, AF012535), an ITIM domain (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. Nos. AF081675, BC015731, NM_006840, NM_006844, NM_006847, XM_017977; see, *e.g.*, Billadeau *et al.*, 2002 *J. Clin. Invest.* 109:161), an ITAM domain (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. Nos. NM_005843, NM_003473, BC030586; see, *e.g.*, Billadeau *et al.*, 2002), or other apoptosis-associated receptor death domain polypeptides known to the art, for example, TNFR2 (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. No. L49431, L49432), caspase/procaspase-3 (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. No. XM_54686), caspase/procaspase-8 (*e.g.*, AF380342, NM_004208, NM_001228, NM_033355, NM_033356, NM_033357, NM_033358), caspase/procaspase-2 (*e.g.*, Genbank Acc. No. AF314174, AF314175), *etc.*

Cells in biological samples that are suspected of undergoing apoptosis may be examined for morphological, permeability or other changes that are indicative of an apoptotic state. For example by way of illustration and not limitation, apoptosis in many cell types may cause altered morphological appearance such as plasma membrane blebbing, cell shape change, loss of substrate adhesion properties or other morphological changes that can be readily detected by a person having ordinary skill in the art, for example by using light microscopy. As another example, cells undergoing apoptosis may exhibit fragmentation and disintegration of chromosomes, which may be apparent by microscopy and/or through the use of DNA-specific or chromatin-specific dyes that are

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

known in the art, including fluorescent dyes. Such cells may also exhibit altered plasma membrane permeability properties as may be readily detected through the use of vital dyes (e.g., propidium iodide, trypan blue) or by the detection of lactate dehydrogenase leakage into the extracellular milieu. These and other means for detecting apoptotic cells by morphologic criteria, altered plasma membrane permeability, and related changes will be apparent to those familiar with the art.

In another embodiment of the invention wherein a construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein, that is expressed at a cell surface comprises a plasma membrane anchor domain having a transmembrane domain and a cytoplasmic tail that comprises an apoptosis signaling polypeptide, cells in a biological sample may be assayed for translocation of cell membrane phosphatidylserine (PS) from the inner to the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane, which may be detected, for example, by measuring outer leaflet binding by the PS-specific protein annexin. Martin *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.* **182**:1545, 1995; Fadok *et al.*, *J. Immunol.* **148**:2207, 1992. In still other related embodiments of the invention, including embodiments wherein a construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein, is expressed at the cell surface and comprises a plasma membrane anchor domain having an apoptosis signaling polypeptide and also including embodiments wherein the construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein, is a soluble protein that lacks a membrane anchor domain and that is capable of inducing apoptosis, a cellular response to an apoptogen is determined by an assay for induction of specific protease activity in any member of a family of apoptosis-activated proteases known as the caspases (see, e.g., Green *et al.*, 1998 *Science* **281**:1309). Those having ordinary skill in the art will be readily familiar with methods for determining caspase activity, for example by determination of caspase-mediated cleavage of specifically recognized protein substrates. These substrates may include, for example, poly-(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) or other naturally occurring or synthetic peptides and proteins cleaved by caspases that are known in the art (see, e.g., Ellerby *et al.*, 1997 *J. Neurosci.* **17**:6165). The synthetic peptide Z-Tyr-Val-Ala-Asp-AFC (SEQ ID NO:__), wherein "Z" indicates a benzoyl carbonyl moiety and AFC indicates 7-amino-4-trifluoromethylcoumarin (Kluck *et al.*, 1997 *Science* **275**:1132; Nicholson *et al.*, 1995 *Nature* **376**:37), is one such substrate. Other non-limiting examples of substrates include nuclear proteins such as U1-70 kDa and DNA-PKcs (Rosen and Casciola-Rosen, 1997 *J.*

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Cell. Biochem. 64:50; Cohen, 1997 *Biochem. J.* 326:1). Cellular apoptosis may also be detected by determination of cytochrome c that has escaped from mitochondria in apoptotic cells (e.g., Liu *et al.*, *Cell* 86:147, 1996). Such detection of cytochrome c may be performed spectrophotometrically, immunochemically or by other well established
5 methods for determining the presence of a specific protein. Persons having ordinary skill in the art will readily appreciate that there may be other suitable techniques for quantifying apoptosis.

Particularly preferred embodiments of constructs useful for gene therapy applications, including those constructs that include a plasma membrane anchor domain
10 and/or cytoplasmic tail polypeptide (including, for example, an apoptosis signaling sequence), are such constructs that include (1) an immunoglobulin variable region polypeptide sequence, including native or engineered V_H and/or V_L and/or single-chain variable region (scFv) sequences, and which include, for example, a mutation, alteration or deletion at an amino acid at a location or locations corresponding to one or more of amino
15 acid positions 9, 10, 11, 12, 108, 110, 111, and 112, in a V_H region sequence (including in a V_H region sequence within an scFv or other construct), and/or (2) an immunoglobulin variable region polypeptide sequence, including native or engineered V_H and/or V_L and/or single-chain variable region (scFv) sequences, and which include, for example, a mutation, alteration or deletion at a location or locations corresponding to one or more of amino acid
20 positions 12, 80, 81, 82, 83, 105, 106, 107 and 108 in a light chain variable region sequence (including in a V_L region sequence within an scFv or other construct). Especially preferred are constructs that include an engineered V_H sequence (whether or not associated with one or more other sequences, including immunoglobulin-derived and other sequences contained, for example, within an scFv or scFv-containing construct), which includes a
25 mutation, alteration or deletion at an amino acid at a location or locations corresponding to amino acid position 11. The V_H11 amino acid, if substituted, may be substituted with another amino acid as described herein, or by another molecule as desired.

Once a construct, such as for example a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein, as provided herein has been designed, polynucleotides including DNAs
30 encoding the construct, where it or a relevant portion of it is a polypeptide, may be synthesized in whole or in part via oligonucleotide synthesis as described, for example, in Sinha *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 12:4539-4557 (1984); assembled via PCR as described, for

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

example in Innis, Ed., *PCR Protocols*, Academic Press (1990) and also in Better *et al. J. Biol. Chem.* **267**:16712-16118 (1992); cloned and expressed via standard procedures as described, for example, in Ausubel *et al.*, Eds., *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley & Sons, New York (1989) and also in Robinson *et al.*, *Hum. Antibod. Hybridomas*, **2**:84-93 (1991); and tested for desired activity, for example, binding to a target, or specific antigen binding activity, as described, for example, in Harlow *et al.*, Eds., *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Chapter 14, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor (1988) and Munson *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.*, **107**:220-239 (1980).

The preparation of single polypeptide chain binding molecules of the Fv region, single-chain Fv molecules, is known in the art. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,946,778. In the present invention, single-chain Fv-like molecules that may be included in constructs of the invention may be synthesized by encoding a first variable region of the heavy or light chain, followed by one or more linkers to the variable region of the corresponding light or heavy chain, respectively. The selection of various appropriate linker(s) between the two variable regions is described in U.S. Pat. No. 4,946,778 (see also, e.g., Huston *et al.*, 1993 *Int. Rev. Immunol.* **10**:195). An exemplary linker described herein is (Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser)₃, but may be of any desired length. The linker is used to convert the naturally aggregated but chemically separate heavy and light chains into the amino terminal antigen binding portion of a single polypeptide chain, for example, wherein this antigen binding portion will fold into a structure similar to the original structure made of two polypeptide chains, or that otherwise has the ability to bind to a target, for example a target antigen. For those constructs that include an scFv as a binding region, a native or engineered immunoglobulin hinge as a connecting region, and one or more native or engineered heavy chain constant regions as a binding region, nucleotide sequences encoding the variable regions of native or engineered heavy and light chains, joined by a sequence encoding a linker, are joined to a nucleotide sequence encoding native or engineered antibody constant regions, as desired. The constant regions may be those that permit the resulting polypeptide to form interchain disulfide bonds to form a dimer, and which contain desired effector functions, such as the ability to mediate ADCC, CDC, or fix complement, although native or engineered constant regions that do not favor dimer or other multimer formation or aggregation are preferred. For a construct, such as an immunoglobulin-like molecule, of the invention that is intended for use in humans, the

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

included sequences having constant regions and/or desired constant regions function(s) will typically be human or substantially human or humanized to minimize a potential anti-human immune response and to provide appropriate or desired effector functions. Manipulation of sequences encoding antibody constant regions is referenced in the PCT publication of Morrison and Oi, WO 89/07142. In preferred embodiments, the CH1 domain is deleted in whole or in part from a tail region that includes, or consists essentially of, or consists of, a native or engineered immunoglobulin constant region(s) (for example, native or engineered CH2 and/or CH3 constant region(s), or native or engineered CH2 and/or CH3 and/or CH4 constant region(s)), and the carboxyl end of the binding region, for example, a binding domain polypeptide such as an immunoglobulin variable region polypeptide, is joined to the amino terminus of, for example, a CH2 via a connecting region, for example, a native or engineered hinge region polypeptide as provided herein.

As described above, the present invention provides recombinant expression constructs capable of directing the expression of constructs of the invention, including binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, as provided herein. The amino acids, which occur, in the various amino acid sequences referred to herein, are identified according to their well known three-letter or single-letter abbreviations. The nucleotides, which occur, in the various DNA sequences or fragments thereof referred herein, are designated with the standard single letter designations used routinely in the art. A given amino acid sequence may also encompass similar but changed amino acid sequences, such as those having only minor changes, for example by way of illustration and not limitation, covalent chemical modifications, insertions, deletions and substitutions, which may further include conservative substitutions or substitutions with non-naturally-occurring amino acids. Amino acid sequences that are similar to one another may share substantial regions of sequence homology. In like fashion, nucleotide sequences may encompass substantially similar nucleotide sequences having only minor changes, for example by way of illustration and not limitation, covalent chemical modifications, insertions, deletions and substitutions, which may further include silent mutations owing to degeneracy of the genetic code. Nucleotide sequences that are similar to one another may share substantial regions of sequence homology.

The presence of a malignant condition in a subject refers to the presence of dysplastic, cancerous, and/or transformed cells in the subject, including, for example,

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

neoplastic, tumor, non-contact inhibited, or oncogenically transformed cells, or the like (e.g., melanoma, carcinomas such as adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, small cell carcinoma, oat cell carcinoma, *etc.*, sarcomas such as chondrosarcoma, osteosarcoma, *etc.*) which are known to the art and for which criteria for diagnosis and classification are established. In preferred embodiments contemplated by the present invention, for example, such cancer cells are malignant hematopoietic cells, such as transformed cells of lymphoid lineage and in particular, B cell lymphomas and the like; cancer cells may in certain preferred embodiments also be epithelial cells such as carcinoma cells. The invention also contemplates B cell disorders, which may include certain malignant conditions that affect B cells (e.g., B cell lymphoma) but which is not intended to be so limited, and which is also intended to encompass autoimmune diseases and in particular, diseases, disorders and conditions that are characterized by autoantibody production, for example.

Autoantibodies are antibodies that react with self-antigens. Autoantibodies are detected in several autoimmune diseases (*i.e.*, a disease, disorder or condition wherein a host immune system generates an inappropriate anti-"self" immune reaction) where they are involved in disease activity. Current treatments for various autoimmune diseases include immunosuppressive drugs that require continuing administration, lack specificity, and cause significant side effects. New approaches that can eliminate autoantibody production with minimal toxicity will address an unmet medical need for a spectrum of diseases that affect many people. Constructs of the subject invention, including binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, are designed, for example, for improved penetration into lymphoid tissues. Depletion of B lymphocytes interrupts the autoantibody production cycle, and allows the immune system to reset as new B lymphocytes are produced from precursors in the bone marrow.

A number of diseases, disorders, and conditions have been identified for which beneficial effects are believed, according to non-limiting theory, to result from B cell depletion therapy. Such diseases disorders, and conditions include, but are not limited to, Grave's disease, Hashimoto's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, Sjogrens Syndrome Immune Thrombocytopenic purpura, multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis, scleroderma, psoriasis, Inflammatory Bowel Disease including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Inflammatory Bowel Disease including Crohn's disease and Ulcerative colitis, are autoimmune diseases of the digestive system.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

The present invention further relates to nucleotide constructs encoding constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, and in particular to methods for administering recombinant constructs encoding such proteins for gene therapy applications that may be expressed, for example, as fragments, analogs and derivatives of such polypeptides.

The terms “fragment,” “derivative” and “analog” when referring to constructs of the invention including, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or fusion proteins, refers to any construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide or fusion protein, that retains essentially the same biological function or activity as such polypeptide. Thus, an analog includes a pro- or prepro- form of a construct, for example, a pro-protein that can be activated by cleavage of the pro-protein portion to produce an active construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide.

A fragment, derivative or analog of a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide or fusion protein, including binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or fusion proteins encoded by the cDNAs referred to herein, may be (i) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues are substituted with a conserved or non-conserved amino acid residue (preferably a conserved amino acid residue) and such substituted amino acid residue may or may not be one encoded by the genetic code, or (ii) one in which one or more of the amino acid residues includes a substituent group, or (iii) one in which additional amino acids are fused or otherwise connected to the construct, *e.g.*, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide, including amino acids that are employed for detection or specific functional alteration of the construct, including such constructs as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide or a proprotein sequence. Such fragments, derivatives and analogs are deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

The constructs, including polypeptide constructs, of the present invention include, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides and fusion proteins having binding regions such as binding domain polypeptide amino acid sequences that are identical or similar to sequences known in the art, or fragments or portions thereof. For example by way of additional illustration and not limitation, a human CD154 molecule extracellular domain [SEQ ID NO:___] is contemplated for use according to the instant

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

invention, as are portions of such polypeptides and/or polypeptides having at least about 70% similarity (preferably greater than a 70% identity) and more preferably about 90% similarity (more preferably greater than a 90% identity) to the reported polypeptide and still more preferably about 95% similarity (still more preferably greater than a 95% identity) to the reported polypeptides and to portions of such polypeptides, wherein such portions of a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide, for example, generally contain at least about 30 amino acids and more preferably at least about 50 amino acids. Extracellular domains include, for example, portions of a cell surface molecule, and in particularly preferred embodiments cell surface molecules that are integral membrane proteins or that comprise a plasma membrane spanning transmembrane domain, that are constructed to extend beyond the outer leaflet of the plasma membrane phospholipid bilayer when the molecule is expressed at a cell surface, preferably in a manner that exposes the extracellular domain portion of such a molecule to the external environment of the cell, also known as the extracellular milieu. Methods for determining whether a portion of a cell surface molecule comprises an extracellular domain are well known to the art and include, for example, experimental determination (e.g., direct or indirect labeling of the molecule, evaluation of whether the molecule can be structurally altered by agents to which the plasma membrane is not permeable such as proteolytic or lipolytic enzymes) or topological prediction based on the structure of the molecule (e.g., analysis of the amino acid sequence of a polypeptide) or other methodologies.

As used herein, an "amino acid" is a molecule having the structure wherein a central carbon atom (the alpha (α)-carbon atom) is linked to a hydrogen atom, a carboxylic acid group (the carbon atom of which is referred to herein as a "carboxyl carbon atom"), an amino group (the nitrogen atom of which is referred to herein as an "amino nitrogen atom"), and a side chain group, R. When incorporated into a peptide, polypeptide, or protein, an amino acid loses one or more atoms of its amino and carboxylic groups in the dehydration reaction that links one amino acid to another. As a result, when incorporated into a protein, an amino acid may also be referred to as an "amino acid residue." In the case of naturally occurring proteins, an amino acid residue's R group differentiates the 20 amino acids from which proteins are typically synthesized, although one or more amino acid residues in a protein may be derivatized or modified following incorporation into protein in biological systems (e.g., by glycosylation and/or by the formation of cystine

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

through the oxidation of the thiol side chains of two non-adjacent cysteine amino acid residues, resulting in a disulfide covalent bond that frequently plays an important role in stabilizing the folded conformation of a protein, *etc.*). As those in the art will appreciate, non-naturally occurring amino acids can also be incorporated into proteins, particularly

5 those produced by synthetic methods, including solid state and other automated synthesis methods. Examples of such amino acids include, without limitation, α -amino isobutyric acid, 4-amino butyric acid, L-amino butyric acid, 6-amino hexanoic acid, 2-amino isobutyric acid, 3-amino propionic acid, ornithine, norleucine, norvaline, hydroxyproline, sarcosine, citrulline, cysteine acid, t-butylglycine, t-butylalanine, phenylglycine,

10 cyclohexylalanine, β -alanine, fluoro-amino acids, designer amino acids (*e.g.*, β -methyl amino acids, α -methyl amino acids, N α -methyl amino acids) and amino acid analogs in general. In addition, when an α -carbon atom has four different groups (as is the case with the 20 amino acids used by biological systems to synthesize proteins, except for glycine, which has two hydrogen atoms bonded to the α carbon atom), two different enantiomeric

15 forms of each amino acid exist, designated D and L. In mammals, only L-amino acids are incorporated into naturally occurring polypeptides. The instant invention envisions proteins incorporating one or more D- and L- amino acids, as well as proteins comprised of just D- or L- amino acid residues.

Herein, the following abbreviations may be used for the following amino

20 acids (and residues thereof): alanine (Ala, A); arginine (Arg, R); asparagine (Asn, N); aspartic acid (Asp, D); cyteine (Cys, C); glycine (Gly, G); glutamic acid (Glu, E); glutamine (Gln, Q); histidine (His, H); isoleucine (Ile, I); leucine (Leu, L); lysine (Lys, K); methionine (Met, M); phenylalanine (Phe, F); proline (Pro, P); serine (Ser, S); threonine (Thr, T); tryptophan (Trp, W); tyrosine (Tyr, Y); and valine (Val, V). Non-polar

25 (hydrophobic) amino acids include alanine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, and methionines. Neutral amino acids include glycine, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, esparagine, and glutamine. Positively charged (basic amino acids include arginine, lysine and histidine. Negatively charged (acidic) amino acids include aspartic acid and glutamic acid.

30 "Protein" refers to any polymer of two or more individual amino acids (whether or not naturally occurring) linked via a peptide bond, and occurs when the carboxyl carbon atom of the carboxylic acid group bonded to the α -carbon of one amino

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

acid (or amino acid residue) becomes covalently bound to the amino nitrogen atom of amino group bonded to the α -carbon of an adjacent amino acid. The term "protein" is understood to include the terms "polypeptide" and "peptide" (which, at times, may be used interchangeably herein) within its meaning. In addition, proteins comprising multiple
5 polypeptide subunits or other components will also be understood to be included within the meaning of "protein" as used herein. Similarly, fragments of proteins, peptides, and polypeptides are also within the scope of the invention and may be referred to herein as "proteins."

In biological systems (be they *in vivo* or *in vitro*, including cell-free,
10 systems), the particular amino acid sequence of a given protein (*i.e.*, the polypeptide's "primary structure," when written from the amino-terminus to carboxy-terminus) is determined by the nucleotide sequence of the coding portion of a mRNA, which is in turn specified by genetic information, typically genomic DNA (which, for purposes of this invention, is understood to include organelle DNA, for example, mitochondrial DNA and
15 chloroplast DNA). Of course, any type of nucleic acid which constitutes the genome of a particular organism (*e.g.*, double-stranded DNA in the case of most animals and plants, single or double-stranded RNA in the case of some viruses, *etc.*) is understood to code for the gene product(s) of the particular organism. Messenger RNA is translated on a ribosome, which catalyzes the polymerization of a free amino acid, the particular identity
20 of which is specified by the particular codon (with respect to mRNA, three adjacent A, G, C, or U ribonucleotides in the mRNA's coding region) of the mRNA then being translated, to a nascent polypeptide. Recombinant DNA techniques have enabled the large-scale synthesis of proteins and polypeptides (*e.g.*, human insulin, human growth hormone, erythropoietin, granulocyte colony stimulating factor, *etc.*) having the same primary
25 sequence as when produced naturally in living organisms. In addition, such technology has allowed the synthesis of analogs of these and other proteins, which analogs may contain one or more amino acid deletions, insertions, and/or substitutions as compared to the native proteins. Recombinant DNA technology also enables the synthesis of entirely novel proteins.

30 In non-biological systems (*e.g.*, those employing solid state synthesis), the primary structure of a protein (which also includes disulfide (cystine) bond locations) can be determined by the user. As a result, polypeptides having a primary structure that

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

duplicates that of a biologically produced protein can be achieved, as can analogs of such proteins. In addition, completely novel polypeptides can also be synthesized, as can protein incorporating non-naturally occurring amino acids.

As is known in the art, "similarity" between two polypeptides may be
 5 determined by comparing the amino acid sequence (including conserved amino acid
 substitutes therein) of one polypeptide to the sequence of a second polypeptide. Fragments
 or portions of the nucleic acids encoding polypeptides of the present invention may be used
 to synthesize full-length nucleic acids of the present invention. As used herein, "%
 identity" refers to the percentage of identical amino acids situated at corresponding amino
 10 acid residue positions when two or more polypeptide are aligned and their sequences
 analyzed using, for example, a 'gapped BLAST algorithm (*e.g.*, Altschul *et al.*, 1997 *Nucl.*
Ac. Res. 25:3389; Altschul *et al.*, 1990 *J. Mol. Biol.*, 215:403-410) which weights sequence
 gaps and sequence mismatches according to the default weightings provided by the
 National Institutes of Health/ NCBI database (Bethesda, MD; *see*
 15 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/BLAST/nph-newblast). Other alignment methods include
 BLITZ (MPsrch) (Sturrock & Collins, 1993), and FASTA (Pearson and Lipman, 1988
Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA. 85:2444-2448).

The term "isolated" means, in the case of a naturally occurring material, that
 the material is or has been removed from, or is no longer associated with, its natural or
 20 original environment. For example, a naturally occurring nucleic acid or protein or
 polypeptide present in a living animal is not isolated, but the same nucleic acid or
 polypeptide, separated from some or all of the co-existing materials in the natural system,
 is isolated. Such nucleic acids could be part of a vector and/or such nucleic acids or
 polypeptides could be part of a composition, and still be isolated in that such vector or
 25 composition is not part of its natural environment. The term "isolated", in the case of non-
 naturally occurring material, such as a recombinantly manufactured construct of the
 invention, includes material that is substantially or essentially free from components which
 normally accompany it during manufacture, such as, for example, proteins and peptides
 that have been purified to a desired degree, preferably, for example, so that they are at least
 30 about 80% pure, more preferably at least about 90%, and still more preferably at least
 about 95% as measured by techniques known in the art.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

The term "gene" means a segment of DNA involved in producing a polypeptide chain; it may also include regions preceding and following a polypeptide coding region, for example, a "leader and trailer" as well as intervening sequences (introns) between relevant individual coding segments (exons).

5 As described herein, the invention provides constructs, including binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, that may be encoded in whole or in part by nucleic acids that have a binding region coding sequence such as, for example, a binding domain coding sequence fused or otherwise connected in frame to an additional native or engineered immunoglobulin domain encoding sequence to provide for expression of, for
10 example, a binding domain polypeptide sequence fused or otherwise connected to an additional functional polypeptide sequence that permits, for example by way of illustration and not limitation, detection, functional alteration, isolation and/or purification of the fusion protein. Such fusion proteins may permit functional alteration of a binding domain by containing additional immunoglobulin-derived polypeptide sequences that influence
15 behavior of the fusion product, for example (and as described above) by reducing the availability of suhydryl groups for participation in disulfide bond formation, and by conferring the ability to potentiate ADCC and/or CDC and/or fix complement.

Modification of a polypeptide may be effected by any means known to those of skill in this art. The preferred methods herein rely on modification of DNA
20 encoding, for example, a fusion protein and expression of the modified DNA. DNA encoding one of the constructs of the invention, for example, one of the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusions discussed herein, for example, may be altered or mutagenized using standard methodologies, including those described below. For example, cysteine residues that may otherwise facilitate multimer formation or promote particular molecular
25 conformations can be deleted from a polypeptide or replaced, *e.g.*, cysteine residues that are responsible for or participate in aggregate formation. If necessary, for example, the identity of cysteine residues that contribute to aggregate formation may be determined empirically, by deleting and/or replacing a cysteine residue and ascertaining whether the resulting protein aggregates in solutions containing physiologically acceptable buffers and
30 salts. In addition, fragments of, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusions may be constructed and used. As noted above, counterreceptor/ligand binding domains for many candidate binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion have been delineated, such that

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

one having ordinary skill in the art may readily select appropriate polypeptide domains for inclusion in encoded products of the instant expression constructs.

Conservative substitutions of amino acids are well known and may be made generally without altering the biological activity of the resulting binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein molecule. For example, such substitutions are generally made by interchanging within the groups of polar residues, charged residues, hydrophobic residues, small residues, and the like. If necessary, such substitutions may be determined empirically merely by testing the resulting modified protein for the ability to bind to the appropriate cell surface receptors in *in vitro* biological assays, or to bind to appropriate antigens or desired target molecules.

The present invention further relates to nucleic acids which hybridize to constructs of the invention, including for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding polynucleotide sequences as provided herein, or their complements, as will be readily apparent to those familiar with the art, if there is at least about 70%, preferably at least about 80-85%, more preferably at least about 90%, and still more preferably at least about 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identity between the sequences.

The present invention particularly relates to nucleic acids that hybridize under stringent conditions to, for example, the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding nucleic acids referred to herein. As used herein, to "hybridize" under conditions of a specified stringency is used to describe the stability of hybrids formed between two single-stranded nucleic acid molecules. Stringency of hybridization is typically expressed in conditions of ionic strength and temperature at which such hybrids are annealed and washed. The term "stringent conditions" refers to conditions that permit hybridization between polynucleotides. Stringent conditions can be defined by salt concentration, the concentration of organic solvent (*e.g.*, formamide), temperature, and other conditions well known in the art. In particular, stringency can be increased by reducing the concentration of salt, increasing the concentration of organic solvents (*e.g.*, formamide), or raising the hybridization temperature. For example, stringent salt concentration will ordinarily be less than about 750 mM NaCl and 75 mM trisodium citrate, preferably less than about 500 mM NaCl and 50 mM trisodium citrate, and most preferably less than about 250 mM NaCl and 25 mM trisodium citrate. Low stringency hybridization can be obtained in the absence of organic solvent, *e.g.*, formamide, while high stringency hybridization can be obtained in

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

the presence of an organic solvent (*e.g.*, at least about 35% formamide, most preferably at least about 50% formamide). Stringent temperature conditions will ordinarily include temperatures of at least about 30°C, more preferably of at least about 37°C, and most preferably of at least about 42°C. Varying additional parameters, for example,

5 hybridization time, the concentration of detergent, *e.g.*, sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), and the inclusion or exclusion of carrier DNA, are well known to those skilled in the art. Various levels of stringency are accomplished by combining these various conditions as needed, and are within the skill in the art. Other typical "high", "medium" and "low" stringency encompass the following conditions or equivalent conditions thereto: high

10 stringency: 0.1 x SSPE or SSC, 0.1% SDS, 65°C; medium stringency: 0.2 x SSPE or SSC, 0.1% SDS, 50°C; and low stringency: 1.0 x SSPE or SSC, 0.1% SDS, 50°C. As known to those having ordinary skill in the art, variations in stringency of hybridization conditions may be achieved by altering the time, temperature and/or concentration of the solutions used for prehybridization, hybridization and wash steps, and suitable conditions may also

15 depend in part on the particular nucleotide sequences of the probe used, and of the blotted, proband nucleic acid sample. Accordingly, it will be appreciated that suitably stringent conditions can be readily selected without undue experimentation where a desired selectivity of the probe is identified, based on its ability to hybridize to one or more certain proband sequences while not hybridizing to certain other proband sequences.

20 As used herein, preferred "stringent conditions" generally refer to hybridization that will occur only if there is at least about 90-95% and more preferably at least about 97% identity between the sequences. The nucleic acid constructs which hybridize to, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding nucleic acids referred to herein, in preferred embodiments, encode polypeptides which retain

25 substantially the same biological function or activity as, for example, the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides encoded by the cDNAs.

The nucleic acids of the present invention, also referred to herein as polynucleotides, may be in the form of RNA, for example, mRNA, or in the form of DNA, which DNA includes cDNA (also called "complementary DNA", which is a DNA

30 molecule that is complementary to a specific messenger RNA), genomic DNA, and synthetic DNA. The DNA may be double-stranded or single-stranded, and if single stranded may be the coding strand or non-coding (anti-sense) strand. A coding sequence

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

which encodes a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide for use according to the invention may contain portions that are identical to the coding sequence known in the art or described herein for portions thereof, or may be a different coding sequence, which, as a result of the
5 redundancy or degeneracy of the genetic code, encodes the same construct or portion thereof, including all or a portion of a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide.

The nucleic acids which encode constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides, for use according to the invention may include, but are not limited to: only the coding sequence for the construct, such as a
10 binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide; the coding sequence for the construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide and additional coding sequence; the coding sequence for the construct, such as a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide (and optionally additional coding sequence) and non-coding sequence, such as introns or non-coding sequences 5' and/or 3' of the coding
15 sequence for the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide or a portion(s) thereof, which for example may further include but need not be limited to one or more regulatory nucleic acid sequences that may be a regulated or regulatable promoter, enhancer, other transcription regulatory sequence, repressor binding sequence, translation regulatory sequence or any other regulatory nucleic acid sequence. Thus, the term "nucleic
20 acid encoding" or "polynucleotide encoding" a construct, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein, encompasses a nucleic acid which includes only coding sequence for, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide as well as a nucleic acid which includes additional coding and/or non-coding sequence(s).

Nucleic acids and oligonucleotides for use as described herein can be
25 synthesized by any method known to those of skill in this art (*see, e.g.*, WO 93/01286, U.S. Application Serial No. 07/723,454; U.S. Patent No. 5,218,088; U.S. Patent No. 5,175,269; U.S. Patent No. 5,109,124). Identification of various oligonucleotides and nucleic acid sequences also involves methods known in the art. For example, the desirable properties, lengths and other characteristics of oligonucleotides useful for cloning are well known. In
30 certain embodiments, synthetic oligonucleotides and nucleic acid sequences may be designed that resist degradation by endogenous host cell nucleolytic enzymes by containing such linkages as: phosphorothioate, methylphosphonate, sulfone, sulfate, ketyl,

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

phosphorodithioate, phosphoramidate, phosphate esters, and other such linkages that have proven useful in antisense applications. See, e.g., Agrwal *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 28:3539-3542 (1987); Miller *et al.*, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 93:6657-6665 (1971); Stec *et al.*, *Tetrahedron Lett.* 26:2191-2194 (1985); Moody *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 12:4769-4782 (1989); Uznanski *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* (1989); Letsinger *et al.*, *Tetrahedron* 40:137-143 (1984); Eckstein, *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 54:367-402 (1985); Eckstein, *Trends Biol. Sci.* 14:97-100 (1989); Stein In: *Oligodeoxynucleotides. Antisense Inhibitors of Gene Expression*, Cohen, Ed, Macmillan Press, London, pp. 97-117 (1989); Jager *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 27:7237-7246 (1988).

In one embodiment, the present invention provides truncated components (e.g., binding domain polypeptide, hinge region polypeptide, linker, *etc.*) for use in a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein. In another embodiment the invention provides nucleic acids encoding a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein having such truncated components. A truncated molecule may be any molecule that comprises less than a full length version of the molecule of interest. Truncated molecules provided by the present invention may include truncated biological polymers, and in preferred embodiments of the invention such truncated molecules may be truncated nucleic acid molecules or truncated polypeptides. Truncated nucleic acid molecules have less than the full length nucleotide sequence of a known or described nucleic acid molecule, where such a known or described nucleic acid molecule may be a naturally occurring, a synthetic, or a recombinant nucleic acid molecule, so long as one skilled in the art would regard it as a full length molecule. Thus, for example, truncated nucleic acid molecules that correspond to a gene sequence contain less than the full length gene where the gene comprises coding and non-coding sequences, promoters, enhancers and other regulatory sequences, flanking sequences and the like, and other functional and non-functional sequences that are recognized as part of the gene. In another example, truncated nucleic acid molecules that correspond to a mRNA sequence contain less than the full length mRNA transcript, which may include various translated and non-translated regions as well as other functional and non-functional sequences.

In other preferred embodiments, truncated molecules are polypeptides that comprise less than the full-length amino acid sequence of a particular protein or

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

polypeptide component. As used herein "deletion" has its common meaning as understood by those familiar with the art, and may refer to molecules that lack one or more portions of a sequence from either terminus or from a non-terminal region, relative to a corresponding full length molecule, for example, as in the case of truncated molecules provided herein.

- 5 Truncated molecules that are linear biological polymers such as nucleic acid molecules or polypeptides may have one or more of a deletion from either terminus of the molecule and/or one or more deletions from a non-terminal region of the molecule, where such deletions may be deletions of from about 1-1500 contiguous nucleotide or amino acid residues, preferably about 1-500 contiguous nucleotide or amino acid residues and more
10 preferably about 1-300 contiguous nucleotide or amino acid residues, including deletions of about 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-74, 75-100, 101-150, 151-200, 201-250 or 251-299 contiguous nucleotide or amino acid residues. In certain particularly preferred
15 embodiments truncated nucleic acid molecules may have a deletion of about 270-330 contiguous nucleotides. In certain more preferred embodiments, truncated polypeptide molecules may have a deletion, for example, of about 80-140 contiguous amino acids.

- The present invention further relates to variants of the herein referenced nucleic acids that encode fragments, analogs and/or derivatives of a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide. The
20 variants of the nucleic acids encoding constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, may be naturally occurring allelic variants of one or more portions of the the nucleic acid sequences included therein, or non-naturally occurring variants of such sequences or portions or sequences, including sequences varied by molecular engineering using, for example, methods know in the art for varying
25 sequence. As is known in the art, an allelic variant is an alternate form of a nucleic acid sequence which may have at least one of a substitution, a deletion or an addition of one or more nucleotides, any of which does not substantially or undesireably alter the function of the encoded binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide.

- 30 Variants and derivatives of constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, may be obtained by mutations of nucleotide sequences encoding, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or any portion thereof. Alterations of the native amino acid sequence may be accomplished

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

by any of a number of conventional methods. Mutations can be introduced at particular loci, for example, by synthesizing oligonucleotides containing a mutant sequence, flanked by restriction sites enabling ligation to fragments of the native sequence. Following ligation, the resulting reconstructed sequence encodes an analog having the desired amino acid insertion, substitution, or deletion.

Alternatively, for example, oligonucleotide-directed site-specific mutagenesis procedures can be employed to provide an altered gene wherein predetermined codons can be altered by substitution, deletion or insertion. Exemplary methods of making such alterations are disclosed by Walder *et al.*, 1986 *Gene* 42:133; Bauer *et al.*, 1985 *Gene* 37:73; Craik, January 1985 *BioTechniques* 12-19; Smith *et al.*, January 1985 *Genetic Engineering: Principles and Methods BioTechniques* 12-19; Costa GL, *et al.*, "Site-directed mutagenesis using a rapid PCR-based method," 1996 *Methods Mol Biol.* 57:239-48; Rashtchian A., "Novel methods for cloning and engineering genes using the polymerase chain reaction," 1995 *Curr Opin Biotechnol.* 6(1):30-6; Sharon J, *et al.*, "Oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis of antibody combining sites," 1993 *Int Rev Immunol.* 10(2-3):113-27; Kunkel, 1985 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 82:488; Kunkel *et al.*, 1987 *Methods in Enzymol.* 154:367; and, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,518,584 and 4,737,462.

As an example, modification of DNA may be performed by site-directed mutagenesis of DNA encoding a protein combined with the use of DNA amplification methods using primers to introduce and amplify alterations in the DNA template, such as PCR splicing by overlap extension (SOE). Site-directed mutagenesis is typically effected using a phage vector that has single- and double-stranded forms, such as M13 phage vectors, which are well known and commercially available. Other suitable vectors that contain a single-stranded phage origin of replication may be used. See, *e.g.*, Veira *et al.*, 1987 *Meth. Enzymol.* 15:3. In general, site-directed mutagenesis is performed by preparing a single-stranded vector that encodes the protein of interest (*e.g.*, all or a component portion of a given binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein). An oligonucleotide primer that contains the desired mutation within a region of homology to the DNA in the single-stranded vector is annealed to the vector followed by addition of a DNA polymerase, such as *E. coli* DNA polymerase I (Klenow fragment), which uses the double stranded region as a primer to produce a heteroduplex in which one strand encodes the altered sequence and the other the original sequence. The heteroduplex is introduced into

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

appropriate bacterial cells and clones that include the desired mutation are selected. The resulting altered DNA molecules may be expressed recombinantly in appropriate host cells to produce the modified protein.

Equivalent DNA constructs that include code for additions or substitutions
5 of amino acid residues or sequences, or deletions of terminal or internal residues or sequences not needed or desired for biological activity, for example, are also encompassed by the invention. For example, and as discussed above, sequences encoding Cys residues that are not desirable or essential for biological activity can be altered to cause the Cys
10 residues to be deleted or replaced with other amino acids, for example, thus preventing formation of incorrect or undesired intramolecular disulfide bridges upon synthesis or renaturation.

A "host cell" or "recombinant host cell" is a cell that contains a vector, e.g., an expression vector, or a cell that has otherwise been manipulated by recombinant techniques to express a protein of interest. Host organisms include those organisms in
15 which recombinant production of constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion products encoded by the recombinant constructs of the present invention may occur, such as bacteria (for example, *E. coli*), yeast (for example, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Pichia pastoris*), insect cells, and mammalian cells, including *in vitro* and *in vivo* expression. Host organisms thus may include organisms for
20 the construction, propagation, expression or other steps in the production of the compositions provided herein. Hosts include subjects in which immune responses take place, as described herein. Presently preferred host organisms for production of constructs of the invention that produce glycosylated proteins are mammalian cells or other cells systems that permit the expression and recovery of glycosylated proteins. Other cell lines
25 include inbred murine strains and murine cell lines, and human cells and cell lines.

A DNA construct encoding a desired construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein is introduced into a vector, for example, a plasmid, for expression in an appropriate host. In preferred embodiments, the host is a mammalian host, for example, a mammalian cell line. The sequence encoding the
30 ligand or nucleic acid binding domain is preferably codon-optimized for expression in the particular host. Thus, for example, if a construct, for example, is a human binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion and is expressed in bacteria, the codons may be optimized for

WO 2005/017148

PT/US2003/041600

bacterial usage. For small coding regions, the gene can be synthesized as a single oligonucleotide. For larger proteins, splicing of multiple oligonucleotides, mutagenesis, or other techniques known to those in the art may be used. The sequences of nucleotides in plasmids or other vectors that are regulatory regions, such as promoters and operators, are operationally associated with one another for transcription. The sequence of nucleotides encoding a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein may also include DNA encoding a secretion signal, whereby the resulting peptide is a precursor protein. The resulting processed protein may be recovered from the periplasmic space or the fermentation medium.

10 In preferred embodiments, the DNA plasmids may also include a transcription terminator sequence. As used herein, a "transcription terminator region" is a sequence that signals transcription termination. The entire transcription terminator may be obtained from a protein-encoding gene, which may be the same or different from the inserted binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding gene or the source of the promoter. Transcription terminators are optional components of the expression systems
15 herein, but are employed in preferred embodiments.

The plasmids or other vectors used herein include a promoter in operative association with the DNA encoding the protein or polypeptide of interest and are designed for expression of proteins in a suitable host as described above (*e.g.*, bacterial, murine, or human) depending upon the desired use of the plasmid (*e.g.*, administration of a vaccine containing binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding sequences). Suitable promoters for expression of proteins and polypeptides herein are widely available and are well known in the art. Inducible promoters or constitutive promoters that are linked to regulatory regions are preferred. Such promoters include, for example, but are not limited to, the T7 phage promoter and other T7-like phage promoters, such as the T3, T5 and SP6
20 promoters, the trp, lpp, and lac promoters, such as the lacUV5, from *E. coli*; the P10 or polyhedrin gene promoter of baculovirus/insect cell expression systems (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,243,041, 5,242,687, 5,266,317, 4,745,051, and 5,169,784) and inducible promoters from other eukaryotic expression systems. For expression of the proteins such
25 promoters are inserted in a plasmid in operative linkage with a control region such as the lac operon.

Preferred promoter regions are those that are inducible and functional in mammalian cells, for example. Examples of suitable inducible promoters and promoter regions for bacterial expression include, but are not limited to: the *E. coli* lac operator responsive to isopropyl β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG; see Nakamura *et al.*, 1979 *Cell* 18:1109-1117); the metallothionein promoter metal-regulatory-elements responsive to heavy-metal (e.g., zinc) induction (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,870,009); the phage T7lac promoter responsive to IPTG (see, e.g., U.S. Patent No. 4,952,496; and Studier *et al.*, 1990 *Meth. Enzymol.* 185:60-89) and the TAC promoter. Depending on the expression host system to be used, plasmids may optionally include a selectable marker gene or genes that are functional in the host. Thus, for example, a selectable marker gene includes any gene that confers a phenotype on bacteria that allows transformed bacterial cells to be identified and selectively grown from among a vast majority of untransformed cells. Suitable selectable marker genes for bacterial hosts, for example, include the ampicillin resistance gene (Amp^r), tetracycline resistance gene (Tc^r) and the kanamycin resistance gene (Kan^r). The kanamycin resistance gene is presently preferred for bacterial expression.

In various expression systems, plasmids or other vectors may also include DNA encoding a signal for secretion of the operably linked protein. Secretion signals suitable for use are widely available and are well known in the art. Prokaryotic and eukaryotic secretion signals functional in *E. coli* may be employed. Depending on the expression systems, presently preferred secretion signals may include, but are not limited to, those encoded by the following *E. coli* genes: ompA, ompT, ompF, ompC, beta-lactamase, and alkaline phosphatase, and the like (von Heijne, *J. Mol. Biol.* 184:99-105, 1985). In addition, the bacterial pelB gene secretion signal (Lei *et al.*, *J. Bacteriol.* 169:4379, 1987), the phoA secretion signal, and the cck2 functional in insect cell may be employed. The most preferred secretion signal for certain expression systems is the *E. coli* ompA secretion signal. Other prokaryotic and eukaryotic secretion signals known to those of skill in the art may also be employed (see, e.g., von Heijne, *J. Mol. Biol.* 184:99-105, 1985). Using the methods described herein, one of skill in the art can substitute secretion signals that are functional, for example, in yeast, insect or mammalian cells to secrete proteins from those cells.

Preferred plasmids for transformation of *E. coli* cells include the pET expression vectors (e.g., pET-11a, pET-12a-c, pET-15b; see U.S. Patent No. 4,952,496;

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

available from Novagen, Madison, WI.). Other preferred plasmids include the pKK plasmids, particularly pKK 223-3, which contains the tac promoter (Brosius *et al.*, 1984 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **81**:6929; Ausubel *et al.*, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*; U.S. Patent Nos. 5,122,463, 5,173,403, 5,187,153, 5,204,254, 5,212,058, 5,212,286, 5,215,907, 5,220,013, 5,223,483, and 5,229,279). Plasmid pKK has been modified by replacement of the ampicillin resistance gene with a kanamycin resistance gene. (Available from Pharmacia; obtained from pUC4K, see, *e.g.*, Vieira *et al.* (1982 *Gene* **19**:259-268; and U.S. Patent No. 4,719,179.) Baculovirus vectors, such as pBlueBac (also called pJVETL and derivatives thereof), particularly pBlueBac III (see, *e.g.*, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,278,050, 5,244,805, 5,243,041, 5,242,687, 5,266,317, 4,745,051, and 5,169,784; available from Invitrogen, San Diego) may also be used for expression of the polypeptides in insect cells. Other plasmids include the pIN-IIIompA plasmids (see U.S. Patent No. 4,575,013; see also Duffaud *et al.*, *Meth. Enz.* **153**:492-507, 1987), such as pIN-IIIompA2.

Preferably, if one or more DNA molecules is replicated in bacterial cells, the preferred host is *E. coli*. The preferred DNA molecule is such a system also includes a bacterial origin of replication, to ensure the maintenance of the DNA molecule from generation to generation of the bacteria. In this way, large quantities of the DNA molecule can be produced by replication in bacteria. In such expression systems, preferred bacterial origins of replication include, but are not limited to, the fl-ori and col E1 origins of replication. Preferred hosts for such systems contain chromosomal copies of DNA encoding T7 RNA polymerase operably linked to an inducible promoter, such as the lacUV promoter (see U.S. Patent No. 4,952,496). Such hosts include, but are not limited to, lysogens *E. coli* strains HMS174(DE3)pLysS, BL21(DE3)pLysS, HMS174(DE3) and BL21(DE3). Strain BL21(DE3) is preferred. The pLys strains provide low levels of T7 lysozyme, a natural inhibitor of T7 RNA polymerase.

The DNA molecules provided may also contain a gene coding for a repressor protein. The repressor protein is capable of repressing the transcription of a promoter that contains sequences of nucleotides to which the repressor protein binds. The promoter can be derepressed by altering the physiological conditions of the cell. For example, the alteration can be accomplished by adding to the growth medium a molecule that inhibits the ability to interact with the operator or with regulatory proteins or other regions of the DNA or by altering the temperature of the growth media. Preferred

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

repressor proteins include, but are not limited to the *E. coli* lacI repressor responsive to IPTG induction, the temperature sensitive λ cI857 repressor, and the like. The *E. coli* lacI repressor is preferred.

In general, recombinant constructs of the subject invention will also contain
5 elements necessary for transcription and translation. In particular, such elements are preferred where the recombinant expression construct containing nucleic acid sequences encoding binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins is intended for expression in a host cell or organism. In certain embodiments of the present invention, cell type preferred or cell type specific expression of a cell binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding
10 gene may be achieved by placing the gene under regulation of a promoter. The choice of the promoter will depend upon the cell type to be transformed and the degree or type of control desired. Promoters can be constitutive or active and may further be cell type specific, tissue specific, individual cell specific, event specific, temporally specific or inducible. Cell-type specific promoters and event type specific promoters are preferred.
15 Examples of constitutive or nonspecific promoters include the SV40 early promoter (U.S. Patent No. 5,118,627), the SV40 late promoter (U.S. Patent No. 5,118,627), CMV early gene promoter (U.S. Patent No. 5,168,062), and adenovirus promoter. In addition to viral promoters, cellular promoters are also amenable within the context of this invention. In particular, cellular promoters for the so-called housekeeping genes are useful. Viral
20 promoters are preferred, because generally they are stronger promoters than cellular promoters. Promoter regions have been identified in the genes of many eukaryotes including higher eukaryotes, such that suitable promoters for use in a particular host can be readily selected by those skilled in the art.

Inducible promoters may also be used. These promoters include MMTV
25 LTR (PCT WO 91/13160), inducible by dexamethasone; metallothionein promoter, inducible by heavy metals; and promoters with cAMP response elements, inducible by cAMP. By using an inducible promoter, the nucleic acid sequence encoding a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein may be delivered to a cell by the subject invention expression construct and will remain quiescent until the addition of the inducer. This
30 allows further control on the timing of production of the gene product.

Event-type specific promoters are active or up regulated only upon the occurrence of an event, such as tumorigenicity or viral infection. The HIV LTR is a well-

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

known example of an event-specific promoter. The promoter is inactive unless the *tat* gene product is present, which occurs upon viral infection. Some event-type promoters are also tissue-specific.

Additionally, promoters that are coordinately regulated with a particular cellular gene may be used. For example, promoters of genes that are coordinately expressed may be used when expression of a particular binding construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein-encoding gene is desired in concert with expression of one or more additional endogenous or exogenously introduced genes. This type of promoter is especially useful when one knows the pattern of gene expression relevant to induction of an immune response in a particular tissue of the immune system, so that specific immunocompetent cells within that tissue may be activated or otherwise recruited to participate in the immune response.

In addition to the promoter, repressor sequences, negative regulators, or tissue-specific silencers may be inserted to reduce non-specific expression of binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding genes in certain situations, such as, for example, a host that is transiently immunocompromised as part of a therapeutic strategy. Multiple repressor elements may be inserted in the promoter region. Repression of transcription is independent on the orientation of repressor elements or distance from the promoter. One type of repressor sequence is an insulator sequence. Such sequences inhibit transcription (Dunaway *et al.*, 1997 *Mol Cell Biol* 17: 182-9; Gdula *et al.*, 1996 *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 93:9378-83, Chan *et al.*, 1996 *J Virol* 70: 5312-28; Scott and Geyer, 1995 *EMBO J* 14:6258-67; Kalos and Fournier, 1995 *Mol Cell Biol* 15:198-207; Chung *et al.*, 1993 *Cell* 74: 505-14) and will silence undesired background transcription.

Repressor elements have also been identified in the promoter regions of the genes for type II (cartilage) collagen, choline acetyltransferase, albumin (Hu *et al.*, 1992 *J. Cell Growth Differ.* 3(9):577-588), phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK-2) (Misuno *et al.*, 1992 *Gene* 119(2):293-297), and in the 6-phosphofructo-2-kinase/fructose-2, 6-bisphosphatase gene. (Lemaigre *et al.*, *Mol. Cell Biol.* 11(2):1099-1106). Furthermore, the negative regulatory element Tse-1 has been identified in a number of liver specific genes, and has been shown to block cAMP response element(CRE)-mediated induction of gene activation in hepatocytes. (Boshart *et al.*, 1990 *Cell* 61(5):905-916).

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

In preferred embodiments, elements that increase the expression of the desired product are incorporated into the construct. Such elements include internal ribosome binding sites (IRES; Wang and Siddiqui, 1995 *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* **203**:99; Ehrenfeld and Semler, 1995 *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* **203**:65; Rees *et al.*, 1996 *Biotechniques* **20**:102; Sugimoto *et al.*, 1994 *Biotechnology* **12**:694). IRES increase translation efficiency. As well, other sequences may enhance expression. For some genes, sequences especially at the 5' end inhibit transcription and/or translation. These sequences are usually palindromes that can form hairpin structures. Any such sequences in the nucleic acid to be delivered are generally deleted. Expression levels of the transcript or translated product are assayed to confirm or ascertain which sequences affect expression. Transcript levels may be assayed by any known method, including Northern blot hybridization, RNase probe protection and the like. Protein levels may be assayed by any known method, including ELISA, western blot, immunocytochemistry or other well-known techniques.

Other elements may be incorporated into the constructs of the invention, for example, into binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding constructs of the present invention. In preferred embodiments, the construct includes a transcription terminator sequence, including a polyadenylation sequence, splice donor and acceptor sites, and an enhancer. Other elements useful for expression and maintenance of the construct in mammalian cells or other eukaryotic cells may also be incorporated (e.g., origin of replication). Because the constructs are conveniently produced in bacterial cells, elements that are necessary for, or that enhance, propagation in bacteria are incorporated. Such elements include an origin of replication, a selectable marker and the like.

As provided herein, an additional level of controlling the expression of nucleic acids encoding constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, delivered to cells for gene therapy, for example, may be provided by simultaneously delivering two or more differentially regulated nucleic acid constructs. The use of such a multiple nucleic acid construct approach may permit coordinated regulation of an immune response such as, for example, spatiotemporal coordination that depends on the cell type and/or presence of another expressed encoded component. Those familiar with the art will appreciate that multiple levels of regulated gene expression may be achieved in a similar manner by selection of suitable regulatory

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

sequences, including but not limited to promoters, enhancers and other well known gene regulatory elements.

The present invention also relates to vectors, and to constructs prepared from known vectors that include nucleic acids of the present invention, and in particular to

5 "recombinant expression constructs", including any of various known constructs, including delivery constructs, useful for gene therapy, that include any nucleic acids encoding, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins and polypeptides according to the invention as provided herein; to host cells which are genetically engineered with vectors and/or other constructs of the invention and to methods of administering expression

10 or other constructs comprising nucleic acid sequences encoding, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides and fusion proteins of the invention, or fragments or variants thereof, by recombinant techniques.

Various constructs of the invention, including for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, can be expressed in virtually any host cell, including *in*

15 *vivo* host cells in the case of use for gene therapy, under the control of appropriate promoters, depending on the nature of the construct (e.g., type of promoter, as described above), and on the nature of the desired host cell (e.g., whether postmitotic terminally differentiated or actively dividing; e.g., whether the expression construct occurs in host cell as an episome or is integrated into host cell genome).

Appropriate cloning and expression vectors for use with prokaryotic and eukaryotic hosts are described, for example, by Sambrook, *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, (1989); as noted herein, in particularly preferred embodiments of the invention, recombinant expression is conducted in mammalian cells that have been transfected or transformed with the subject invention

25 recombinant expression construct. See also, for example, Machida, CA., "Viral Vectors for Gene Therapy: Methods and Protocols"; Wolff, JA, "Gene Therapeutics: Methods and Applications of Direct Gene Transfer" (Birkhauser 1994); Stein, U and Walther, W (eds.P, "Gene Therapy of Cancer: Methods and Protocols" (Humana Press 2000); Robbins, PD (ed.), "Gene Therapy Protocols" (Humana Press 1997); Morgan, JR (ed.), "Gene Therapy

30 Protocols" (Humana Press 2002); Meager, A (ed.), "Gene Therapy Technologies, Applications and Regulations: From Laboratory to Clinic" (John Wiley & Sons Inc. 1999); MacHida, CA and Constant, JG, "Viral Vectors for Gene Therapy: Methods and Protocols"

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

(Humana Press 2002); "New Methods Of Gene Therapy For Genetic Metabolic Diseases NIH Guide," Volume 22, Number 35, October 1, 1993. See also recent U.S. patents relating to gene therapy, including vaccines, which include U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,384,210 ("Solvent for biopolymer synthesis, solvent microdroplets and methods of use"); 6,384,203
5 ("Family of immunoregulators designated leukocyte immunoglobulin-like receptors (LIR)"); 6,384,202 ("Cell-specific active compounds regulated by the cell cycle"); 6,384,018 ("Polynucleotide tuberculosis vaccine"); 6,383,814 ("Cationic amphiphiles for intracellular delivery of therapeutic molecules"); 6,383,811 ("Polyampholytes for delivering polyions to a cell"); 6,383,795 ("Efficient purification of adenovirus");
10 6,383,794 ("Methods of producing high titer recombinant adeno-associated virus"); 6,383,785 ("Self-enhancing, pharmacologically controllable expression systems"); 6,383,753 ("Yeast mammalian regulators of cell proliferation"); 6,383,746 ("Functional promoter for CCR5"); 6,383,743 ("Method for serial analysis of gene expression"); 6,383,738 ("Herpes simplex virus ORF P is a repressor of viral protein synthesis");
15 6,383,737 ("Human oxalyl-CoA Decarboxylase"); 6,383,733 ("Methods of screening for pharmacologically active compounds for the treatment of tumour diseases"); 6,383,522 ("Toxicity reduced composition containing an anti-neoplastic agent and a shark cartilage extract"); 6,383,512 ("Vesicular complexes and methods of making and using the same"); 6,383,481 ("Method for transplantation of hemopoietic stem cells"); 6,383,478 ("Polymeric
20 encapsulation system promoting angiogenesis"); 6,383,138 ("Method for transdermal sampling of analytes"); 6,380,382 ("Gene encoding a protein having diagnostic, preventive, therapeutic, and other uses"); 6,380,371 ("Endoglycan: a novel protein having selectin ligand and chemokine presentation activity"); 6,380,369 ("Human DNA mismatch repair proteins"); 6,380,362 ("Polynucleotides, polypeptides expressed by the polynucleotides
25 and methods for their use"); 6,380,170 ("Nucleic acid construct for the cell cycle regulated expression of structural genes"); 6,380,169 ("Metal complex containing oligonucleoside cleavage compounds and therapies"); 6,379,967 ("Herpesvirus saimiri as viral vector"); 6,379,966 ("Intravascular delivery of non-viral nucleic acid protease proteins, and uses thereof").

30 Typically, for example, expression constructs are derived from plasmid vectors. One preferred construct is a modified pNASS vector (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA), which has nucleic acid sequences encoding an ampicillin resistance gene, a

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

polyadenylation signal and a T7 promoter site. Other suitable mammalian expression vectors are well known (*see, e.g., Ausubel et al., 1995; Sambrook et al., supra; see also, e.g., catalogues from Invitrogen, San Diego, CA; Novagen, Madison, WI; Pharmacia, Piscataway, NJ; and others*). Presently preferred constructs may be prepared that include a

5 dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) encoding sequence under suitable regulatory control, for promoting enhanced production levels of the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protei, which levels result from gene amplification following application of an appropriate selection agent (*e.g., methotrexate*).

Generally, recombinant expression vectors will include origins of

10 replication and selectable markers permitting transformation of the host cell, and a promoter derived from a highly-expressed gene to direct transcription of a downstream structural sequence, as described above. The heterologous structural sequence is assembled in appropriate phase with translation initiation and termination sequences. Thus, for example, the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding nucleic

15 acids as provided herein may be included in any one of a variety of expression vector constructs as a recombinant expression construct for expressing a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide in a host cell. In certain preferred embodiments the constructs are included in formulations that are administered *in vivo*. Such vectors and constructs include chromosomal, nonchromosomal and synthetic DNA sequences, *e.g.,*

20 derivatives of SV40; bacterial plasmids; phage DNA; yeast plasmids; vectors derived from combinations of plasmids and phage DNA, viral DNA, such as vaccinia, adenovirus, fowl pox virus, and pseudorabies, or replication deficient retroviruses as described below. However, any other vector may be used for preparation of a recombinant expression construct, and in preferred embodiments such a vector will be replicable and viable in the

25 host.

The appropriate DNA sequence(s) may be inserted into a vector, for example, by a variety of procedures. In general, a DNA sequence is inserted into an appropriate restriction endonuclease site(s) by procedures known in the art. Standard techniques for cloning, DNA isolation, amplification and purification, for enzymatic

30 reactions involving DNA ligase, DNA polymerase, restriction endonucleases and the like, and various separation techniques are those known and commonly employed by those skilled in the art. A number of standard techniques are described, for example, in Ausubel

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

et al. (1993 *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Greene Publ. Assoc. Inc. & John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Boston, MA); Sambrook *et al.* (1989 *Molecular Cloning*, Second Ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Plainview, NY); Maniatis *et al.* (1982 *Molecular Cloning*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Plainview, NY); Glover (Ed.) (1985 *DNA Cloning Vol. I and II*, IRL Press, Oxford, UK); Hames and Higgins (Eds.), (1985 *Nucleic Acid Hybridization*, IRL Press, Oxford, UK); and elsewhere.

The DNA sequence in the expression vector is operatively linked to at least one appropriate expression control sequence(s) (*e.g.*, a constitutive promoter or a regulated promoter) to direct mRNA synthesis. Representative examples of such expression control sequences include promoters of eukaryotic cells or their viruses, as described above. Promoter regions can be selected from any desired gene using CAT (chloramphenicol transferase) vectors or other vectors with selectable markers. Eukaryotic promoters include CMV immediate early, HSV thymidine kinase, early and late SV40, LTRs from retrovirus, and mouse metallothionein-I. Selection of the appropriate vector and promoter is well within the level of ordinary skill in the art, and preparation of certain particularly preferred recombinant expression constructs comprising at least one promoter or regulated promoter operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding an binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide is described herein.

Transcription of the DNA encoding proteins and polypeptides included within the present invention by higher eukaryotes may be increased by inserting an enhancer sequence into the vector. Enhancers are *cis*-acting elements of DNA, usually about from 10 to 300 bp that act on a promoter to increase its transcription. Examples including the SV40 enhancer on the late side of the replication origin bp 100 to 270, a cytomegalovirus early promoter enhancer, the polyoma enhancer on the late side of the replication origin, and adenovirus enhancers.

Gene therapy is the use of genetic material to treat disease. It comprises strategies to replace defective genes or add new genes to cells and/or tissues, and is being developed for application in the treatment of cancer, the correction of metabolic disorders and in the field of immunotherapy. Gene therapies of the invention include the use of various constructs of the invention, with or without a separate carrier or delivery vehicle or constructs, for treatment of the diseases, disorders, and/or conditions noted herein. Such constructs may also be used as vaccines for treatment or prevention of the diseases,

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

disorders, and/or conditions noted herein. DNA vaccines, for example, make use of polynucleotides encoding immunogenic protein and nucleic acid determinants to stimulate the immune system against pathogens or tumor cells. Such strategies can stimulate either acquired or innate immunity or can involve the modification of immune function through cytokine expression. *In vivo* gene therapy involves the direct injection of genetic material into a patient or animal model of human disease. Vaccines and immune modulation are systemic therapies. With tissue-specific *in vivo* therapies, such as those that aim to treat cancer, localized gene delivery and/or expression/targeting systems are preferred. Diverse gene therapy vectors have been designed to target specific tissues, and procedures have been developed to physically target specific tissues, for example, using catheter-based technologies, all of which are contemplated herein. Ex vivo approaches to gene therapy are also contemplated herein and involve the removal, genetic modification, expansion and re-administration of a patient's own cells. Examples include bone marrow transplantation for cancer treatment or the genetic modification of lymphoid progenitor cells. *Ex vivo* gene therapy is preferably applied to the treatment of cells that are easily accessible and can survive in culture during the gene transfer process (such as blood or skin cells).

Useful gene therapy vectors include adenoviral vectors, lentiviral vectors, Adeno-associated virus (AAV) vectors, Herpes Simplex Virus (Hsv) vectors, and retroviral vectors. Gene therapies may also be carried out using "naked DNA," liposome-based delivery, lipid-based delivery (including DNA attached to positively charged lipids), and electroporation.

As provided herein, in certain embodiments, including but not limited to gene therapy embodiments, the vector may be a viral vector such as, for example, a retroviral vector. Miller *et al.*, 1989 *BioTechniques* 7:980; Coffin and Varmus, 1996 *Retroviruses*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, NY. For example, retroviruses from which the retroviral plasmid vectors may be derived include, but are not limited to, Moloney Murine Leukemia Virus, spleen necrosis virus, retroviruses such as Rous Sarcoma Virus, Harvey Sarcoma virus, avian leukosis virus, gibbon ape leukemia virus, human immunodeficiency virus, adenovirus, Myeloproliferative Sarcoma Virus, and mammary tumor virus.

Retroviruses are RNA viruses that can replicate and integrate into the genome of a host cell via a DNA intermediate. This DNA intermediate, or provirus, may

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

be stably integrated into the host cell DNA. According to certain embodiments of the present invention, an expression construct may comprise a retrovirus into which a foreign gene that encodes a foreign protein is incorporated in place of normal retroviral RNA. When retroviral RNA enters a host cell coincident with infection, the foreign gene is also
5 introduced into the cell, and may then be integrated into host cell DNA as if it were part of the retroviral genome. Expression of this foreign gene within the host results in expression of the foreign protein.

Most retroviral vector systems that have been developed for gene therapy are based on murine retroviruses. Such retroviruses exist in two forms, as free viral
10 particles referred to as virions, or as proviruses integrated into host cell DNA. The virion form of the virus contains the structural and enzymatic proteins of the retrovirus (including the enzyme reverse transcriptase), two RNA copies of the viral genome, and portions of the source cell plasma membrane containing viral envelope glycoprotein. The retroviral genome is organized into four main regions: the Long Terminal Repeat (LTR), which
15 contains *cis*-acting elements necessary for the initiation and termination of transcription and is situated both 5' and 3' of the coding genes, and the three coding genes *gag*, *pol*, and *env*. These three genes *gag*, *pol*, and *env* encode, respectively, internal viral structures, enzymatic proteins (such as integrase), and the envelope glycoprotein (designated gp70 and p15e) which confers infectivity and host range specificity of the virus, as well as the "R"
20 peptide of undetermined function.

Separate packaging cell lines and vector producing cell lines have been developed because of safety concerns regarding the uses of retroviruses, including their use in expression constructs as provided by the present invention. Briefly, this methodology employs the use of two components, a retroviral vector and a packaging cell line (PCL).
25 The retroviral vector contains long terminal repeats (LTRs), the foreign DNA to be transferred and a packaging sequence (*y*). This retroviral vector will not reproduce by itself because the genes that encode structural and envelope proteins are not included within the vector genome. The PCL contains genes encoding the *gag*, *pol*, and *env* proteins, but does not contain the packaging signal "*y*". Thus, a PCL can only form empty
30 virion particles by itself. Within this general method, the retroviral vector is introduced into the PCL, thereby creating a vector-producing cell line (VCL). This VCL

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

manufactures virion particles containing only the retroviral vector's (foreign) genome, and therefore has previously been considered to be a safe retrovirus vector for therapeutic use.

“Retroviral vector construct” refers to an assembly that is, within preferred embodiments of the invention, capable of directing the expression of a sequence(s) or gene(s) of interest, such as binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding nucleic acid sequences. Briefly, the retroviral vector construct must include a 5' LTR, a tRNA binding site, a packaging signal, an origin of second strand DNA synthesis and a 3' LTR. A wide variety of heterologous sequences may be included within the vector construct, including for example, sequences which encode a protein (*e.g.*, cytotoxic protein, disease-associated antigen, immune accessory molecule, or replacement gene), or which are useful as a molecule itself (*e.g.*, as a ribozyme or antisense sequence).

Retroviral vector constructs of the present invention may be readily constructed from a wide variety of retroviruses, including for example, B, C, and D type retroviruses as well as spumaviruses and lentiviruses (see, *e.g.*, RNA Tumor Viruses, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1985). Such retroviruses may be readily obtained from depositories or collections such as the American Type Culture Collection (“ATCC”; Rockville, Maryland), or isolated from known sources using commonly available techniques. Any of the above retroviruses may be readily utilized in order to assemble or construct retroviral vector constructs, packaging cells, or producer cells of the present invention given the disclosure provided herein, and standard recombinant techniques (*e.g.*, Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2d ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 1989; Kunkle, 1985 *PNAS* 82:488).

Suitable promoters for use in viral vectors generally may include, but are not limited to, the retroviral LTR; the SV40 promoter; and the human cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter described in Miller, *et al.*, 1989 *Biotechniques* 7:980-990, or any other promoter (*e.g.*, cellular promoters such as eukaryotic cellular promoters including, but not limited to, the histone, pol III, and β -actin promoters). Other viral promoters that may be employed include, but are not limited to, adenovirus promoters, thymidine kinase (TK) promoters, and B19 parvovirus promoters. The selection of a suitable promoter will be apparent to those skilled in the art from the teachings contained herein, and may be from among either regulated promoters or promoters as described above.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

As described above, the retroviral plasmid vector is employed to transduce packaging cell lines to form producer cell lines. Examples of packaging cells which may be transfected include, but are not limited to, the PE501, PA317, ψ -2, ψ -AM, PA12, T19-14X, VT-19-17-H2, ψ CRE, ψ CRIP, GP+E-86, GP+envAm12, and DAN cell lines as described in Miller, *Human Gene Therapy*, 1:5-14 (1990). The vector may transduce the packaging cells through any means known in the art. Such means include, but are not limited to, electroporation, the use of liposomes, and CaPO_4 precipitation. In one alternative, the retroviral plasmid vector may be encapsulated into a liposome, or coupled to a lipid, and then administered to a host.

The producer cell line generates infectious retroviral vector particles that include the nucleic acid sequence(s) encoding the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or fusion proteins. Such retroviral vector particles then may be employed, to transduce eukaryotic cells, either *in vitro* or *in vivo*. The transduced eukaryotic cells will express the nucleic acid sequence(s) encoding the binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptide or fusion protein. Eukaryotic cells which may be transduced include, but are not limited to, embryonic stem cells, as well as hematopoietic stem cells, hepatocytes, fibroblasts, circulating peripheral blood mononuclear and polymorphonuclear cells including myelomonocytic cells, lymphocytes, myoblasts, tissue macrophages, dendritic cells, Kupffer cells, lymphoid and reticuloendothelia cells of the lymph nodes and spleen, keratinocytes, endothelial cells, and bronchial epithelial cells.

As another example of an embodiment of the invention in which a viral vector is used to prepare, for example, a recombinant binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion expression construct, in one preferred embodiment, host cells transduced by a recombinant viral construct directing the expression of binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or fusion proteins may produce viral particles containing expressed binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or fusion proteins that are derived from portions of a host cell membrane incorporated by the viral particles during viral budding.

In another aspect, the present invention relates to host cells containing the herein described nucleic acid constructs, such as, for example, recombinant binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion expression constructs. Host cells are genetically engineered (transduced, transformed or transfected) with the vectors and/or expression

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

constructs of this invention that may be, for example, a cloning vector, a shuttle vector, or an expression construct. The vector or construct may be, for example, in the form of a plasmid, a viral particle, a phage, *etc.* The engineered host cells can be cultured in conventional nutrient media modified as appropriate for activating promoters, selecting
5 transformants or amplifying particular genes such as genes encoding binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion polypeptides or binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins. The culture conditions for particular host cells selected for expression, such as temperature, pH and the like, will be readily apparent to the ordinarily skilled artisan.

The host cell for production or expression of a construct of the invention,
10 for example, can be a higher eukaryotic cell, such as a mammalian cell, or a lower eukaryotic cell, such as a yeast cell, or the host cell can be a prokaryotic cell, such as a bacterial cell. Representative examples of appropriate host cells according to the present invention include, but need not be limited to, bacterial cells, such as *E. coli*, *Streptomyces*, *Salmonella typhimurium*; fungal cells, such as yeast; insect cells, such as *Drosophila S2*
15 and *Spodoptera Sf9*; animal cells, such as CHO, COS or 293 cells; adenoviruses; plant cells, or any suitable cell already adapted to *in vitro* propagation or so established *de novo*. The selection of an appropriate host is deemed to be within the scope of those skilled in the art from the teachings herein.

Various mammalian cell culture systems can also be employed to express
20 recombinant protein. Examples of mammalian expression systems include the COS-7 lines of monkey kidney fibroblasts, described by Gluzman, 1981 *Cell* 23:175, and other cell lines capable of expressing a compatible vector, for example, the C127, 3T3, CHO, HeLa and BHK cell lines. Mammalian expression vectors will comprise an origin of replication, a suitable promoter and enhancer, and also any necessary ribosome binding sites,
25 polyadenylation site, splice donor and acceptor sites, transcriptional termination sequences, and 5' flanking nontranscribed sequences, for example as described herein regarding the preparation of binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion expression constructs. DNA sequences derived from the SV40 splice, and polyadenylation sites may be used to provide the required nontranscribed genetic elements. Introduction of the construct into the host
30 cell can be effected by a variety of methods with which those skilled in the art will be familiar, including but not limited to, for example, calcium phosphate transfection, DEAE-

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Dextran mediated transfection, or electroporation (Davis *et al.*, 1986 *Basic Methods in Molecular Biology*).

The present invention constructs, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins, or compositions comprising one or more polynucleotides encoding same as described herein (for example, to be administered under conditions and for a time sufficient to permit expression of a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein in a host cell *in vivo* or *in vitro*, for gene therapy, for example, among other things), may be formulated into pharmaceutical compositions for administration according to well known methodologies. Pharmaceutical compositions generally comprise one or more recombinant expression constructs, and/or expression products of such constructs, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent. Such carriers will be nontoxic to recipients at the dosages and concentrations employed. For nucleic acid-based formulations, or for formulations comprising expression products of the subject invention recombinant constructs, about 0.01 µg/kg to about 100 mg/kg body weight will be administered, for example, typically by the intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous route, or by other routes. A preferred dosage, for example, is about 1 µg/kg to about 1 mg/kg, with about 5 µg/kg to about 200 µg/kg particularly preferred. It will be evident to those skilled in the art that the number and frequency of administration will be dependent upon the response of the host. "Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers" for therapeutic use are well known in the pharmaceutical art, and are described, for example, in *Remingtons Pharmaceutical Sciences*, Mack Publishing Co. (A.R. Gennaro edit. 1985). For example, sterile saline and phosphate-buffered saline at physiological pH may be used. Preservatives, stabilizers, dyes and even flavoring agents may be provided in the pharmaceutical composition. For example, sodium benzoate, sorbic acid and esters of *p*-hydroxybenzoic acid may be added as preservatives. *Id.* at 1449. In addition, antioxidants and suspending agents may be used. *Id.*

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salt" refers to salts of the compounds of the present invention derived from the combination of such compounds and an organic or inorganic acid (acid addition salts) or an organic or inorganic base (base addition salts). The compounds of the present invention may be used in either the free base or salt forms, with both forms being considered as being within the scope of the present invention.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

The pharmaceutical compositions that contain one or more nucleic acid constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding constructs (or their expressed products) may be in any form that allows for the composition to be administered to a patient. For example, the composition may be in the form of a solid, liquid or gas (aerosol). Typical routes of administration include, without limitation, oral, topical, parenteral (*e.g.*, sublingually or buccally), sublingual, rectal, vaginal, and intranasal. The term parenteral as used herein includes subcutaneous injections, intravenous, intramuscular, intrasternal, intracavernous, intrathecal, intrameatal, intraurethral injection or infusion techniques. The pharmaceutical composition is formulated so as to allow the active ingredients contained therein to be bioavailable upon administration of the composition to a patient. Compositions that will be administered to a patient take the form of one or more dosage units, where for example, a tablet may be a single dosage unit, and a container of one or more compounds of the invention in aerosol form may hold a plurality of dosage units.

For oral administration, an excipient and/or binder may be present. Examples are sucrose, kaolin, glycerin, starch dextrins, sodium alginate, carboxymethylcellulose and ethyl cellulose. Coloring and/or flavoring agents may be present. A coating shell may be employed.

The composition may be in the form of a liquid, *e.g.*, an elixir, syrup, solution, emulsion or suspension. The liquid may be for oral administration or for delivery by injection, as two examples. When intended for oral administration, preferred compositions contain, in addition to one or more binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion construct or expressed product, one or more of a sweetening agent, preservatives, dye/colorant and flavor enhancer. In a composition to be administered by injection, one or more of a surfactant, preservative, wetting agent, dispersing agent, suspending agent, buffer, stabilizer and isotonic agent, for example, may be included.

A liquid pharmaceutical composition as used herein, whether in the form of a solution, suspension or other like form, may include one or more of the following adjuvants: sterile diluents such as water for injection, saline solution, preferably physiological saline, Ringer's solution, isotonic sodium chloride, fixed oils such as synthetic mono or diglycerides which may serve as the solvent or suspending medium, polyethylene glycols, glycerin, propylene glycol or other solvents; antibacterial agents such

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

as benzyl alcohol or methyl paraben; antioxidants such as ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite; chelating agents such as ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid; buffers such as acetates, citrates or phosphates and agents for the adjustment of tonicity such as sodium chloride or dextrose. The parenteral preparation can be enclosed in ampoules, disposable syringes or multiple dose vials made of glass or plastic. Physiological saline is a preferred adjuvant. An injectable pharmaceutical composition is preferably sterile.

It may also be desirable to include other components in the preparation, such as delivery vehicles including but not limited to aluminum salts, water-in-oil emulsions, biodegradable oil vehicles, oil-in-water emulsions, biodegradable microcapsules, and liposomes. Examples of immunostimulatory substances (adjuvants) for use in such vehicles include N-acetylmuramyl-L-alanine-D-isoglutamine (MDP), lipopoly-saccharides (LPS), glucan, IL-12, GM-CSF, gamma interferon and IL-15.

While any suitable carrier known to those of ordinary skill in the art may be employed in the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention, the type of carrier will vary depending on the mode of administration and whether a sustained release is desired. For parenteral administration, such as subcutaneous injection, the carrier preferably comprises water, saline, alcohol, a fat, a wax or a buffer. For oral administration, any of the above carriers or a solid carrier, such as mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, talcum, cellulose, glucose, sucrose, and magnesium carbonate, may be employed. Biodegradable microspheres (*e.g.*, polylactic galactide) may also be employed as carriers for the pharmaceutical compositions of this invention. Suitable biodegradable microspheres are disclosed, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,897,268 and 5,075,109. In this regard, it is preferable that the microsphere be larger than approximately 25 microns.

Pharmaceutical compositions may also contain diluents such as buffers, antioxidants such as ascorbic acid, low molecular weight (less than about 10 residues) polypeptides, proteins, amino acids, carbohydrates including glucose, sucrose or dextrans, chelating agents such as EDTA, glutathione and other stabilizers and excipients. Neutral buffered saline or saline mixed with nonspecific serum albumin are exemplary appropriate diluents. Preferably, product is formulated as a lyophilizate using appropriate excipient solutions (*e.g.*, sucrose) as diluents.

As described above, the subject invention includes compositions capable of delivering nucleic acid molecules encoding binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

proteins. Such compositions include recombinant viral vectors (e.g., retroviruses (see WO 90/07936, WO 91/02805, WO 93/25234, WO 93/25698, and WO 94/03622), adenovirus (see Berkner, 1988 *Biotechniques* 6:616-627; Li *et al.*, 1993 *Hum. Gene Ther.* 4:403-409; Vincent *et al.*, *Nat. Genet.* 5:130-134; and Kolls *et al.*, 1994 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 91:215-219), pox virus (see U.S. Patent No. 4,769,330; U.S. Patent No. 5,017,487; and
5 WO 89/01973)), recombinant expression construct nucleic acid molecules complexed to a polycationic molecule (see WO 93/03709), and nucleic acids associated with liposomes (see Wang *et al.*, 1987 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:7851). In certain embodiments, the DNA may be linked to killed or inactivated adenovirus (see Curiel *et al.*, 1992 *Hum. Gene*
10 *Ther.* 3:147-154; Cotton *et al.*, 1992 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:6094). Other suitable compositions include DNA-ligand (see Wu *et al.*, 1989 *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:16985-16987) and lipid-DNA combinations (see Felgner *et al.*, 1989 *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:7413-7417).

In addition to direct *in vivo* procedures, *ex vivo* procedures may be used in
15 which cells are removed from a host, modified, and placed into the same or another host animal. It will be evident that one can utilize any of the compositions noted above for introduction of constructs of the invention, for example, binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion proteins or of binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding nucleic acid molecules into tissue cells in an *ex vivo* context. Protocols for viral, physical and chemical
20 methods of uptake are well known in the art.

Accordingly, the present invention is useful for treating a patient having a B cell disorder or a malignant condition, or for treating a cell culture derived from such a patient. As used herein, the term "patient" refers to any warm-blooded animal, preferably a human. A patient may be afflicted with cancer or a malignant condition, such as B cell
25 lymphoma, or may be normal (*i.e.*, free of detectable disease and infection). A "cell culture" includes any preparation amenable to *ex vivo* treatment, for example a preparation containing immunocompetent cells or isolated cells of the immune system (including, but not limited to, T cells, macrophages, monocytes, B cells and dendritic cells). Such cells may be isolated by any of a variety of techniques well known to those of ordinary skill in
30 the art (e.g., Ficoll-hypaque density centrifugation). The cells may (but need not) have been isolated from a patient afflicted with a B cell disorder or a malignant condition, and may be reintroduced into a patient after treatment.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

A liquid composition intended for either parenteral or oral administration should contain an amount of a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion protein encoding construct or expressed product, such that a suitable dosage will be obtained. Typically, this amount is at least 0.01 wt% of a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion construct or expressed product in the composition. When intended for oral administration, this amount may be varied to be between 0.1 and about 70% of the weight of the composition. Preferred oral compositions contain between about 4% and about 50% of binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion construct or expressed product(s). Preferred compositions and preparations are prepared so that, for example, a parenteral dosage unit contains between 0.01 to 1% by weight of active compound.

The pharmaceutical composition may be intended for topical administration, in which case the carrier may suitably comprise a solution, emulsion, ointment, or gel base. The base, for example, may comprise one or more of the following: petrolatum, lanolin, polyethylene glycols, beeswax, mineral oil, diluents such as water and alcohol, and emulsifiers and stabilizers. Thickening agents may be present in a pharmaceutical composition for topical administration. If intended for transdermal administration, the composition may include a transdermal patch or iontophoresis device. Topical formulations may contain a concentration of a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion construct or expressed product, of from about 0.1 to about 10% w/v (weight per unit volume).

The composition may be intended for rectal administration, in the form, *e.g.*, of a suppository that will melt in the rectum and release the drug. The composition for rectal administration may contain an oleaginous base as a suitable nonirritating excipient. Such bases include, without limitation, lanolin, cocoa butter and polyethylene glycol.

In the methods of the invention, a construct of the invention, for example, a binding domain-immunoglobulin fusion encoding constructs or expressed product(s), may be administered through use of insert(s), bead(s), timed-release formulation(s), patch(es) or fast-release formulation(s).

Constructs of the invention, for example, antigen-binding constructs of the invention, may be administered or co-administered to an animal or patient in combination with, or at the same or about the same time, as other compounds. In one aspect, one or more constructs, including for example one or more antigen-binding constructs, are

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

- administered to an animal or patient in conjunction with one or more chemotherapeutic compounds such as alkylating agents, nucleoside analogues, and the like. The administration or co-administration of one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention and one or more chemotherapeutic agents can
- 5 be used for the treatment of tumors or cancer in an animal or patient. Exemplary cancers include, but are not limited to, head and neck cancer, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, hepatic cancer, bladder cancer, cervical cancer, endometrial cancer, lung cancer (non-small cell), ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer, choriocarcinoma (lung cancer); hairy cell leukemia, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute
- 10 lymphocytic leukemia (breast & bladder), acute myelogenous leukemia, meningeal leukemia, chronic myelogenous leukemia, erythroleukemia. More commonly the cancers treated include non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (osteogenic sarcoma, adult soft tissue sarcoma), T-cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, slowly growing non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, Hodgkin's lymphoma and ovarian cancer.
- 15 Examples of an alkylating agents that can be co-administered with one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention include mechlorethamine, chlorambucil, ifosfamide, melphalan, busulfan, carmustine, lomustine, procarbazine, dacardazine, cisplatin, carboplatin, mitomycin C, cyclophosphamide, isosfamide, , hexamethylmelamine, thiotepe, , and dacarbazine, and analogues thereof. See
- 20 for example U.S. Pat. No. 3,046,301 describing the synthesis of chlorambucil, U.S. Pat. No. 3,732,340 describing the synthesis of ifosfamide, U.S. Pat. No. 3,018,302 for the synthesis of cyclophosphamide, U.S. Pat. No. 3,032,584 describing the synthesis of melphalan, and Braunwald et al., "Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine," 15th Ed., McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, pp.536-544 (2001) for clinical aspects of
- 25 cyclophosphamide, chlorambucil, melphalan, ifosfamide, procarbazine, hexamethylmelamine, cisplatin, and carboplatin. Examples of nucleoside analogues, include, but are not limited to, fludarabine pentostatin, methotrexate, fluorouracil, fluorodeoxyuridine, CB3717, azacitidine, cytarabine, floxuridine, mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine, cladribine, and analogues thereof. One example is the combination of
- 30 constructs, including antigen-binding constructs that bind CD20. This construct acts as a chemosensitising agent and works together with chemotherapeutic agents, such that less chemotherapeutic agents are necessary to achieve anti-tumor or anti-cancer effects. For

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

example, U.S. Pat. No. 3,923,785 describing the synthesis of pentostatin, U.S. Pat. No. 4,080,325 describing the synthesis of methotrexate, U.S. Pat. No. 2,802,005 describing the synthesis of fluorouracil, and Braunwald et al., "Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine," 15th Ed., McGraw-Hill, New York, NY, pp.536-544 (2001) for clinical aspects of methotrexate, 5-fluorouracil, cytosine arabinoside, 6-mercaptopurine, 6-thioguanine, and fludarabine phosphate.

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered compounds that inhibit topoisomerase II or compounds that otherwise interact with nucleic acids in cells. Such compounds include, for example, doxorubicin, epirubicin, etoposide, teniposide, mitoxantrone, and analogues thereof. In one example, this combination is used in treatment to reduce tumor cell contamination of peripheral blood progenitor cells (PBSC) in conjunction with high-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell support (HDC-ASCT). See U.S. Patent 6,586,428 to Geroni *et al.*

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with therapeutic drugs. For example, Virulizin (Lorus Therapeutics), which is believed to stimulate the release of tumour necrosis factor, TNF-alpha, by tumour cells in vitro and stimulate activation of macrophage cells. This can be used in combination with one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention to increase cancer cell apoptosis and treat various types of cancers including Pancreatic Cancer, Malignant Melanoma, Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS), Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer, Uterine, Ovarian and Cervical Cancer. Another example is CpG 7909 (Coley Pharmaceutical Group), which is believed to activate NK cells and monocytes and enhance ADCC. This drug can be used in combination with cancer or tumor specific constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention, such as an anti-CD20 construct, to treat non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and other cancers.

One or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can also be combined with angiogenesis inhibitors to increase anti-tumor effects. Angiogenesis is the growth of new blood vessels. This process allows tumors to grow and metastasize. Inhibiting angiogenesis can help prevent metastasis, and stop the spread of tumor cells. Angiogenesis inhibitors include, but are not limited to, angiostatin,

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

endostatin, thrombospondin, platelet factor 4, Cartilage-derived inhibitor (CDI), retinoids, Interleukin-12, tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase 1, 2 and 3 (TIMP-1, TIMP-2, and TIMP-3) and proteins that block the angiogenesis signaling cascade, such as anti-VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor) and IFN-alpha. Angiogenesis inhibitors can be
5 administered or co-administered with tumor specific constructs, including antigen-binding constructs capable of mediating, for example, ADCC and/or complement fixation or chemotherapy-conjugated antigen-binding of the invention to combat various types of cancers, for example, solid tumor cancers such as lung and breast cancer.

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-
10 binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with disease modifying anti-rheumatic agents (DMAR agents) for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Crohn's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, and various inflammatory disease processes. In such treatment, the constructs, for example, antigen-binding constructs, of the invention are commonly
15 administered in conjunction with compounds such as azathioprine, cyclosporin, gold, hydroxychloroquine, methotrexate, penicillamine, sulphasalazine, and the like.

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-
binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with agents or
compounds that counteract the biological effects of interleukin-1, including for example
20 interleukin-1 inhibitors and interleukin-1 receptor antagonist. It is thought that interleukin-1 has a role in the generation of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), inflammation, and the destruction of joints. IL-1 inhibitors can also be used in conjunction with the constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention to treat arthritis, inflammatory bowel
disease, sepsis and septic shock, ischemic injury, reperfusion, ischemic brain injury such as
25 cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis. See U.S. Patent No. 6,159,460 to Thompson *et al.* In
another aspect, for example, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding
constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered to an animal or patient
in conjunction with one or more glucocorticoids for example, methylprednisilone,
dexamethasone, hydrocortisone, and the like. Glucocorticoids have been used to induce
30 apoptosis and inhibit growth, independent of ADCC and CDC. These compounds can be
combined with constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention capable of
inducing apoptosis in cancer cells. In one example is the anti-CD20, and anti-CD40

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

antigen-binding constructs, which can be used to induce apoptosis in B-cells, are combined with glucocorticoids to treat B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with p38 inhibitors or antagonists. The p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway is involved in a number of cellular processes instrumental to the development of rheumatoid arthritis. For example, the activation and infiltration of leukocytes as well as the production of inflammatory cytokines are p38-dependent processes.

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention are administered or co-administered with compounds that promote the differentiation and proliferation of B-cells. Cytokines such as \ interleukin-4 (IL-4) and interleukin-6 (IL-6), in addition to other biological activities, have been shown to stimulate antibody synthesis and secretion by activated B lymphocytes. In a particular aspect of the invention, constructs, including antigen-binding constructs that recognize and bind CD20 are co-administered with one or more of interleukin-4 (IL-4) and interleukin-6 (IL-6).

In another aspect one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with Interleukin-2 (IL-2). Interleukin 2 (IL-2) is a lymphokine that increases production of effector cells, such as CD4+ T-helper cells, CD8 cytotoxic cells, antibody producing B cells, natural killer cells (NK), and monocytes/macrophages. IL-2 helps produce T-cells, which in turn secrete more of the IL-2 (an "autocrine loop"). IL-2 can be used to augment antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) and immunotherapies associated with constructs of the invention. In one example, an anti-CD20 construct of the invention and IL-2 are used to treat patients with relapsed or refractory follicular non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. In another example IL-2 is administered or co-administered with HIV immunotherapies to help with T cell recovery.

In another aspect one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with Interleukin-12 (IL-12). IL-12 is know to enhance cytolytic T-cell responses, promote the development of helper T cells, enhance the activity of natural killer (NK) cells, and induces the secretion of IFN- γ in T and NK cells. IL-12 also increases many helper and effector

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

cells that mediate apoptosis. In another aspect of the invention, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, are administered or co-administered with IL-12 in the treatment of an animal or patient with a tumor or cancer. For example, a construct, including an antigen-binding construct, of the invention that binds CD20
5 combined with IL-2 for the treatment of a patient with B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).

One or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can also be combined with immunomodulators to boost the efficacy of the antigen-binding constructs of the invention. Immunomodulators include, but are not
10 limited to, Colony Stimulating Factors (CSF), Tumor necrosis Factors (TNF), and Interferons (IFN).

CSFs can include granulocyte-macrophage CSF (GM-CSF), granulocyte-CSF (G-CSF), and macrophage CSF (M-CSF). GM-CSF is thought to regulate the development of neutrophils, macrophages, monocytes and eosinophils. G-CSF has been
15 shown to induce neutrophil production, and M-CSF production. M-CSF has been shown to stimulate macrophages and monocytes. The use of CSFs to treat neutropenia in cancer patients has been long established. In one example, constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be combined with GM-CSF, G-CSF or combinations thereof in order to accelerate recovery from neutropenia in patients after bone marrow
20 trans-plantation and chemotherapy. Neutrophils play a major role in fighting microbes such as bacterial, fungi and parasites. Patients with neutropenia are particularly susceptible to bacterial and wide spread fungal infections. In another example, a construct, including an antigen binding construct, of the invention can be combined with GM-CSF-treated neutrophils, monocytes and macrophages to increase activity against bacteria, fungi, etc,
25 including the dreaded *Pneumocystis carinii*.

An example of an IFN is interferon alpha (IFN- α). IFN- α is made naturally by some types of white blood cell as part of the immune response when the body reacts to cancers or viral infections. It has two main modes of attack, interfering with growth and proliferation of cancer cells and it boosting the production of killer T cells and other cells
30 that attack cancer cells. Interferon is also thought to facilitate cancer cells to put out chemical signals that make them better targets for the immune system, and has been used in recent years for several different types of cancer, particularly kidney cancer, melanoma,

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

multiple myeloma, and some types of leukemia. It is also used to treat viral infections such as hepatitis. Interferon-alpha2a, for example, enhances ADCC and can be combined with one or more constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention to increase the efficiency of ADCC activity associated with the construct. In another example, one or
5 more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs of the invention are administered or co-administered to an animal or patient with interferon-gamma (IFN- γ), which has been show to increase the number of anti-CD20 antigens on B cells and bone marrow plasma cells (BMPC). This is particularly useful for the treatment of patients with multiple myelomas, which have a reduced expression of CD20 in their B cells and bone
10 marrow plasma cells (BMPC). Accordingly, the treatment of multiple myeloma patients with constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention, in particular constructs that bind CD20, may be usefully co-administered in conjunction with IFN- γ

TNF is a class of natural chemicals with anticancer properties. One example of a TNF is TNF- alpha. TNF-alpha has also been shown to have synergistic effects with IFN-gamma and IL-12. In another example, TNF can be administered or co-
15 administered with one or more tumor specific constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention, and include chemotherapy-conjugated antigen binding constructs of the invention, together with IFN-gamma, IL-12 or various combinations thereof. TNF is also known to be an inflammatory regulation molecule. TNF-alpha
20 antibodies or antagonist(s) can be combined with anti-T cell constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention to treat patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, ulcerative colitis, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Crohn's disease, ankylosing spondylitis, and various inflammatory disease processes.

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with another antibody or antigen-binding construct of the invention. One example is a construct, for
25 example, an antigen-binding construct of the invention capable of binding CD20 combined with a construct capable of binding CD22, CD19 or combinations thereof. This combination is effective as a treatment for indolent and aggressive forms of B-cell lymphomas, and acute and chronic forms of lymphatic leukemias. See U.S. Patent 6,306,393 to Goldberg. In another example, constructs, including antigen-binding
30 constructs, of the invention are co-administered with other constructs such as antigen-

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

binding constructs of the invention that aid in mediating apoptosis. For example, a combination of one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs of the invention capable of binding CD28, CD3, CD20 or a combination thereof. The combination of anti-CD28 and CD3 provides a method for prolonged proliferation of T-cells. See U.S. Patent No. 6,352,694 to June et al.. This prolonged T-cell proliferation increases the efficiency immune dependent cytotoxicity, particularly those associated with anti-CD20.

In another aspect, constructs, including antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with one or more T-cell regulatory molecules. One example is a combination with interleukin-12 (IL-12). The IL-12 cytokine stimulates cell-mediated immunity, has angiostatic activity, and possesses significant anti-tumor effects in a variety of tumor models. IL-12 has also been shown to stimulate the production of interferon-gamma (IFN- γ). Accordingly, the treatment of multiple myeloma patients with one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention, in particular those that bind CD20, is expected to be more efficacious when co-administered in conjunction with IL-12. In another example, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered or co-administered with a binding-domain construct of the invention other protein capable of binding CTLA-4 to enhance the anti-tumor immune response, by inhibiting the downregulation of T-cell activation.

In another aspect, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be combined with gene therapies. In one example, a chemotherapy-conjugated construct of the invention is administered or co-administered with the Bcl-2 antisense oligonucleotide. Bcl-2 is associated with tumor resistance to anti-cancer therapies, and its believed to blocking chemotherapy-induced cell death. In another example one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention is administered or co-administered with an adenovirus for delivery of a "suicide gene." The adenovirus inserts the gene directly into the tumor cells, which makes these cells sensitive to an otherwise ineffective drug. Drug treatment then destroys the tumor cells, while leaving healthy cells untouched. However, once therapy is complete stray cancer cells that escaped therapy can reestablish and metastasize. Combining gene therapy

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

with one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, will help kill stray cancer cells and minimize cancer reoccurrence.

A similar combination can be used with palliative (non-radical) operations to surgically remove tumors. In this example one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention can be administered before and after surgical extractions of tumors in order to increase the immune response and reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence by killing any cancer cells that were not removed during the surgery.

Another aspect combines a cancer or antigen vaccine and T-cell regulator molecules. For example, the binding portion, for example, an antigen-binding portion, of a construct can be specific for a cancer cell or antigen, or a protein fragment from a cancer cell or antigen. This can help mediate an immune response against a particular tumor or antigen. Such constructs can be combined with T-cell regulators to increase the efficiency of the immune response.

In another example, one or more constructs, including one or more antigen-binding constructs, of the invention is administered or co-administered with retinoids. Retinoids include Vitamin A and its derivatives, which have the ability to stop cells from dividing and cause them to differentiate. Vitamin A is combined with an anti-cancer construct(s), including antigen-binding construct(s), of the invention to combat various forms of cancer.

The terms "binding construct" and "antigen-binding construct" as used herein may refer to, for example, engineered polypeptides, recombinant polypeptides, synthetic, semi-synthetic or other fusion proteins that are capable of binding a target, for example, an antigen. Antigen-binding constructs of the invention may be used in various applications, including those within the variety of uses to which antibodies or related immunoglobulin-type constructs may be put. Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention can be used in *in vivo* and *in vitro* experiments for therapeutic, diagnostic, research, and other purposes. Such uses include, for example, the following.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention may be used for immunohistochemistry applications. For example, they may be used for immunolocalization of a particular antigen or group of antigens in a tissue. Tissue can be fixed and incubated with antigen-binding constructs of interest. These constructs can then

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

be localized using a secondary antibody or binding construct of the invention coupled to a label, for example, to a gold particle or an enzyme that gives a chemical reaction, like horseradish peroxidase or beta-galactosidase. A secondary antibody or binding construct is frequently made that is reactive against, for example, a portion of the primary binding
5 construct. Thus, for example, if the primary binding construct has a human tail portion, the secondary antibody or binding construct could be, for example, a rabbit anti-mouse antibody or antigen-binding construct that has been linked to beta-galactosidase. Alternatively the antibody or binding construct of the invention can be purified and then conjugated to another molecule to produce a fluorescent antibody or binding construct.

10 Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention can also be used to detect the location of an antigen or antigens on the surface of cells or to detect the location of intracellular materials using, for example, Immunelectron Microscopy. Electron dense materials such as ferritin or colloidal gold, for example, can be conjugated to an antigen-binding construct. Scanning electron microscopy can be used to detect the
15 localization of the antigen/binding construct complex.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention may also be used to quantitate the presence of an antigen or antigens using one of a variety of immunoassay formats, for example, a radioimmunoassay (RIA) format or an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) format. There are many variants of these
20 approaches, but those are based on a similar idea. For example, if an antigen can be bound to a solid support or surface, or is in solution, it can be detected by reacting it with a specific antigen-binding construct of the invention. The presence or amount of the construct can then be detected or quantitated by reacting it with, for example, either a secondary antibody or a second antigen-binding construct of the invention by incorporating
25 a label directly into the primary antibody. Alternatively, for example, an antigen-binding polypeptide of the invention can be bound to a solid surface and the antigen added. A second antibody or antigen-binding polypeptide(s) of the invention that recognizes a distinct epitope on the antigen can then be added and detected. This technique is commonly referred to as a "sandwich assay", which is frequently used to avoid problems
30 of high background or non-specific reactions, among other reasons.

Because the binding constructs of the invention can have high affinity/affinities and/or selectivity/selectivities for a particular epitope or epitopes, they

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

can also be used as affinity reagents, for example, in protein or antigen purification. In one example of such a process, antigen-binding constructs of the invention are immobilized on a suitable support, for example, Sephadex resin or filter paper. The immobilized construct is exposed to a sample containing, or suspected of containing, a target protein(s) or antigen(s). The support is rinsed with a suitable buffer that will remove unwanted materials. The support is washed with another buffer that will release the bound protein(s) or antigen(s).

Because particular binding constructs of the invention can bind to proteins or other antigens with high affinity and selectivity they can also be used as a criterion for the importance of a particular enzyme or other macromolecule in a particular reaction. If an antigen-binding construct of the invention can interfere with a reaction in a solution, this will indicate that the construct may be binding specifically to a protein or other antigenic material involved in that reaction.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention can also be used as receptor blockers or inhibitors or antagonists.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention can also be used in identifying and studying the function(s) of proteins. If an antigen-binding construct of the invention reacts with a specific protein, for example, that protein can subsequently be precipitated from solution, for example. Precipitation is typically performed by using a secondary antibody or antigen-binding construct of the invention that links primary complexes together. Alternatively, the complex can be removed by reacting the solution with either protein A or, for example, depending on the construct, an anti-Fc antibody, for example, which has been attached to beads, for example, so that can be easily removed from the solution.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention can also be used in conjunction with gel-shift experiments to identify specific nucleic acid-binding proteins such as DNA-binding proteins. For example, DNA-binding proteins can be assayed by their ability to bind with high affinity to a particular oligonucleotide. The mobility of an oligonucleotide associated with the protein is far different than the mobility of a free oligonucleotide and results in a gel migration pattern and signal that is commonly referred to as a gel shift. The addition of the construct to the binding assay can have either of two effects. If the construct binds to a region of a protein not involved in DNA binding

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

it can result in a complex that has even a slower mobility and is detected as a greater shift in mobility (a super-shift). Alternatively, if the construct binds to a region of the protein involved in recognizing the DNA then it can disrupt the binding and eliminate the shift. In either case, the data from these experiments can serve as a criterion to identify a DNA-binding protein, for example.

It is also possible to use constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention to detect a protein by western blotting after fractionation by SDS-PAGE, for example. Once fractionated proteins are transferred to a membrane such as a nitrocellulose sheet, they are exposed to a particular antigen-binding construct of the invention that specifically recognizes, or recognizes to a desired degree of selectivity, proteins immobilized to the blot. This allows particular proteins to be identified. This approach is particularly useful if the mobility of the protein changes during an experiment. For example, incorporation of a phosphate or a carbohydrate, or cleavage of the protein, results in a change in mobility that can be followed in straightforward manner by western analysis. With appropriate controls, this approach can be used to measure the abundance of a protein in response to experimental manipulations.

The combination of SDS gels and immunoprecipitation can also be extremely effective. If a particular protein can be immunoprecipitated in a solution, both supernatant and precipitated fractions can be separated on an SDS gel and studied using an antigen-binding construct(s) of the invention.

Sometimes a binding construct of the invention directed against one protein will also precipitate a second protein that interacts with the first protein. The second protein, as well as the first, can then be seen by staining the gel or by autoradiography. This relationship is frequently the first indication that a protein functions as part of a complex and it can also be used to demonstrate a physical interaction of two proteins that are hypothesized to interact on the basis of other evidence (e.g., a two hybrid screen or a suppressor mutation). This approach can be combined with western blotting analysis in several extremely effective ways.

Thus, for example, antigen-binding constructs of the invention can be used in a combination of immunoprecipitation and western analysis in the study, for example, of signal transduction and protein processing. For example, an immunoprecipitated protein can be subsequently studied by western analysis using a different antibody or antigen-

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

binding construct of the invention that binds to the protein. The most useful of are those that are directed against particular structural determinants that may be present in a protein. Thus, an antibody or antigen-binding construct of the invention directed against a region of the protein that undergoes proteolytic processing can be useful to follow proteolytic processing. Additionally, a construct of the invention or a mixture of antigen-binding constructs of the invention that recognize phosphorylated peptides (e.g., anti PY (phosphorylated tyrosine) can be used to follow the extent of phosphorylation of a protein (using western analysis) after it is precipitated, or *visa versa*. Glycosylation reactions can also be followed by antigen-binding constructs of the invention directed against a carbohydrate epitope (or by lectins, *i.e.*, proteins that recognize carbohydrates). Likewise, some antigen-binding constructs of the invention can be made that specifically recognize a phosphorylated epitope, for example, that will recognize a tyrosine or a serine residue after phosphorylation, but will not bind (or detectably bind) the epitope in the absence of phosphate. This approach can be used to determine the phosphorylation state of a particular protein. For example, the phosphorylation of CREB (the cAMP response element binding protein) can be followed by an antibody that specifically recognizes an epitope in a way that is dependent on the phosphorylation of serine 133.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention can also be used to screen expression libraries to isolate candidate polynucleotides that express or present a particular epitope, or that have a particular affinity or expression characteristic.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention that bind to a cell surface can also be used as a marker to quantitate the fraction of cells expressing that marker using flow cytometry. If different antigen binding constructs of the invention / fluorescent dye combinations are used, for example, the fraction of cells expressing several antigens can be determined.

Constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention that function like anti-idiotypic antibodies, *i.e.*, antibodies against the binding domain of another antibody, can be used in any of a number of methods in which it would be desirable or useful to mimic the structure of an antigen. Such uses include, for example, uses as cancer vaccines (including antigen-binding constructs of the invention that incorporate a molecular adjuvant), as probes for receptors, as receptor agonists, as receptor antagonists, as receptor blockers or inhibitors, and so on.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

In another aspect, constructs, including antigen-binding constructs of the invention may bispecific and thus capable of binding to two distinct epitopes, which may be present on the same or different cell types.

In vivo uses of constructs of the invention, including antigen-binding
5 constructs, include therapy, alone or in combination with one or more other therapies, for various diseases including cancers as well as B-cell disorders including autoimmune diseases. In some cases the constructs of the invention are administered to a patient. In other cases, the construct may be coupled to another molecule by techniques known in the art, for example, a fluorescent molecule to aid in imaging a target, or a therapeutic drug
10 and/or a toxin to aid in killing a target.

For example, a labeling molecule or atom can be conjugated or otherwise linked to the antigen-binding construct of the invention to aid in imaging or as a diagnostic agent. These include, but are not limited to enzymatic labels, radioisotopes or radioactive compounds or elements, fluorescent compounds or metals, chemiluminescent compounds
15 and bioluminescent compounds. Thus, binding constructs or antigen-binding constructs of the invention can be conjugated to a drug, which allows specific drug targeting and increased efficiency once the drug reaches the target. This facilitates drug therapy while reducing systemic toxicity and side effects. This allows use of drugs that would otherwise be unacceptable when administered systemically. Dosage will depend on the potency of
20 the drug and the efficiency of the carrier construct. Other examples of *in vivo* uses include the use of binding constructs or antigen-binding constructs of the invention in which a toxin is chemically linked or conjugated to an polypeptide of the invention to form, for example, molecules that may be termed "immunoconjugates" or "immunotoxins." Typically, for example, such a toxin may include one or more radioisotopes (for example,
25 Iodine-131, Yttrium-90, Rhenium-186, Copper-67, and/or Bismuth-212), natural toxins, chemotherapy agents, biological response modifiers, or any other substance that is capable of assisting in damaging or killing a target cell, inhibiting target cell replication, or is effective in disrupting a desired cellular function in a target cell.

The toxin portion of the immunotoxin can be derived from various sources.
30 Toxins are commonly derived from plants or bacteria, but toxins of human origin or synthetic toxins can be used as well, for example. Examples of toxins derived from bacteria or plants include, but are not limited to, abrin, α -sarcin, diphtheria toxin, ricin,

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

saporin, and *pseudomonas* exotoxin. Examples of mammalian enzymes include, but are not limited to, ribonucleases (RNase) and deoxyribonucleases. Numerous immunotoxins that may be used with one or more constructs of the invention have been described in the art. See, for example, U.S. Pat. No. 4,753,894 to Frankel *et al.*; U.S. Pat. No. 6,099,842 to Pastan *et al.*; Nevelle, *et al.*, 1982 *Immunol Rev.* 62:75-91; Pastan *et al.*, 1992 *Ann Rev Biochem* 61:331-354; Chaudary *et al.*, 1989 *Nature* 339:394; and Batra *et al.*, 1991 *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 11:2200. Modified toxins described herein and those described in the various publications are also within the scope of the instant invention.

Generally, the immunotoxins and other therapeutic agents of this invention are administered at a concentration that is therapeutically effective to treat or prevent a particular disease, disorder, or condition, such as for the treatment of tumors and malignancies, the treatment of autoimmune diseases, allergies and inflammation, *etc.* This effective dosage and mode of administration will depend on the animal or patient being treated, the disease or condition being treated, the strength of the immunoconjugates or immunotoxins and the efficiency of the conjugate. To accomplish this goal, the immunotoxins may be formulated using a variety of acceptable formulations and excipients known in the art. Typically, for example, the immunotoxins are administered by injection, either intravenously or intraperitoneally. Methods to accomplish this administration are known to those of ordinary skill in the art. It another aspect, the invention includes topically or orally administered compositions such as an aerosol or cream or patch that may be capable of transmission across mucous membranes.

Formulants may be added to an immunoconjugates or immunotoxins of the invention before administration to a patients being treated. A liquid formulation is most common, but other formulations are within the scope of the invention. The formulants may include for example oils, polymers, vitamins, carbohydrates, amino acids, salts, buffers, albumin, surfactants, or bulking agents. Carbohydrates can include sugar or sugar alcohols such as mono, di, or polysaccharides, or water-soluble glucans. The saccharides or glucans can include for example fructose, dextrose, lactose, glucose, mannose, sorbose, xylose, maltose, sucrose, dextran, pullulan, dextrin, alpha and beta cyclodextrin, soluble starch, hydroxethyl starch and carboxymethylcellulose, or mixtures thereof. "Sugar alcohol" may be defined as a C₄ to C₈ hydrocarbon having an -OH group and includes, for example, galactitol, inositol, mannitol, xylitol, sorbitol, glycerol, and arabitol. These sugars or sugar

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

alcohols mentioned above may be used individually or in combination. There is no fixed limit to the amount used as long as the sugar or sugar alcohol is soluble in the aqueous preparation. In one aspect, the sugar or sugar alcohol concentration is between 0.5 w/v % and 15 w/v %, typically between 1.0 w/v % and 7.0 w/v %, more typically between 2.0 and 5 6.0 w/v %.

Exemplary amino acids include levorotary (L) forms of camitine, arginine, and betaine; however, other amino acids may be added. Commonly used polymers include polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) with an average molecular weight between 2,000 and 3,000, for example, or polyethylene glycol (PEG) with an average molecular weight between 10 3,000 and 5,000, for example. A buffer can be used in the composition to minimize pH changes in the solution before lyophilization or after reconstitution. Any physiological buffer may be used, but citrate, phosphate, succinate, and glutamate buffers or mixtures thereof are more commonly utilized. The concentration can be, for example, from 0.01 to 0.3 molar. Higher or lower concentrations may be used.

15 Immunotoxins of the invention can be chemically modified by covalent conjugation to a polymer to increase their circulating half-life, for example. Exemplary polymers and methods to attach them to peptides are referenced in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,766,106 to Katre *et al.*; 4,179,337 to Davis *et al.*; 4,495,285 to Shimizu *et al.*; and 4,609,546 to Hiratani.

20 The following Examples are offered by way of illustration and not by way of limitation.

EXAMPLE 1

CLONING OF THE 2H7 VARIABLE REGIONS AND CONSTRUCTION AND SEQUENCING OF 2H7scFv-IG

25 This Example illustrates the cloning of cDNA molecules that encode the heavy chain and light chain variable regions of the monoclonal antibody 2H7. This Example also demonstrates the construction, sequencing, and expression of 2H7scFv-Ig.

Prior to harvesting, cells expressing 2H7 monoclonal antibody that specifically bound to CD20 were kept in log phase growth for several days in RPMI 1640 media Invitrogen/Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, MD) supplemented with glutamine, 30 pyruvate, DMEM non-essential amino acids, and penicillin-streptomycin. Cells were pelleted by centrifugation from the culture medium, and 2×10^7 cells were used to prepare

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

RNA. RNA was isolated from the 2H7-producing hybridoma cells using the Pharmingen (San Diego, CA) total RNA isolation kit (Catalog # 45520K) according to the manufacturer's instructions accompanying the kit. One microgram (1 µg) of total RNA was used as template to prepare cDNA by reverse transcription. The RNA and 300 ng
5 random primers were combined and denatured at 72 °C for 10 minutes prior to addition of enzyme. Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies) was added to the RNA plus primer mixture in a total volume of 25 µl in the presence of 5X second strand buffer and 0.1 M DTT provided with the enzyme. The reverse transcription reaction was allowed to proceed at 42°C for one hour.

10 The 2H7 cDNA generated in the randomly primed reverse transcriptase reaction and V region specific primers were used to amplify by PCR the variable regions for the light and heavy chain of the 2H7 antibody. The V region specific primers were designed using the published sequence (Genbank accession numbers M17954 for V_L and M17953 for V_H) as a guide. The two variable chains were designed with compatible end
15 sequences so that an scFv could be assembled by ligation of the two V regions after amplification and restriction enzyme digestion.

A (Gly₄Ser)₃ peptide linker to be inserted between the two V regions was incorporated by adding the extra nucleotides to the antisense primer for the V_L of 2H7. A Sac I restriction site was also introduced at the junction between the two V regions. The
20 sense primer used to amplify the 2H7 V_L, that included a HindIII restriction site and the light chain leader peptide was 5'-gtc agc ctt gcc gcc atg gat ttt caa gtg cag att ttt cag c-3' (SEQ ID NO: __). The antisense primer was 5'-gtc gtc gag ctc cca cct cct cca gat cca cca ccg ccc gag cca ccg cca cct ttc agc tcc agc ttg gtc cc-3' (SEQ ID NO: __). The reading frame of the V region is indicated as a bold, underlined codon. The Hind III and SacI sites
25 are indicated by underlined italicized sequences.

The V_H domain was amplified without a leader peptide, but included a 5' SacI restriction site for fusion to the V_L and a BclI restriction site at the 3' end for fusion to various tails, including the human IgG1 Fc domain and the truncated forms of CD40 ligand, CD154. The sense primer was 5'-gct gct gag ctc tca ggc tta tct aca gca agt ctg g-3'
30 (SEQ ID NO: __). The SacI site is indicated in italicized and underlined font, and the reading frame of the codon for the first amino acid of the V_H domain is indicated in bold, underlined type. The antisense primer was 5'-gtt gtc tga tca gag agc gtc acc gtc gtc cc-3'

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

(SEQ ID NO: ____). The BclII site is indicated in italicized, underlined type, and the last serine of the V_H domain sequence is indicated in bold, underlined type.

The scFv-Ig was assembled by inserting the 2H7 scFv HindIII-BclII fragment into pUC19 containing the human IgG1 hinge, CH2, and CH3 regions, which was digested with restriction enzymes, HindIII and BclII. After ligation, the ligation products were transformed into DH5 α bacteria. Positive clones were screened for the properly inserted fragments using the SacI site at the V_L-V_H junction of 2H7 as a diagnostic site. The 2H7scFv-Ig cDNA was subjected to cycle sequencing on a PE 9700 thermocycler using a 25-cycle program by denaturing at 96 °C for 10 seconds, annealing at 50 °C for 30 seconds, and extending at 72°C for 4 minutes. The sequencing primers were pUC forward and reverse primers and an internal primer that annealed to the CH2 domain human in the IgG constant region portion. Sequencing reactions were performed using the Big Dye Terminator Ready Sequencing Mix (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Samples were subsequently purified using Centriscap columns (Catalog # CS-901, Princeton Separations, Adelphia, N.J.), the eluates dried in a Savant vacuum dryer, denatured in Template Suppression Reagent (PE-ABI), and analyzed on an ABI 310 Genetic Analyzer (PE-Applied Biosystems). The sequence was edited, translated, and analyzed using Vector NtI version 6.0 (Informax, North Bethesda, MD). Figure 1 shows the cDNA and predicted amino acid sequence of the 2H7scFv-Ig construct.

EXAMPLE 2

EXPRESSION OF 2H7 SCFV-IG IN STABLE CHO CELL LINES

This Example illustrates expression of 2H7scFv-Ig in a eukaryotic cell line and characterization of the expressed 2H7scFv-Ig by SDS-PAGE and by functional assays, including ADCC and complement fixation.

The 2H7scFv-Ig HindIII-XbaI (~1.6 kb) fragment with correct sequence was inserted into the mammalian expression vector pD18, and DNA from positive clones was amplified using QIAGEN plasmid preparation kits (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA). The recombinant plasmid DNA (100 μ g) was then linearized in a nonessential region by digestion with AscI, purified by phenol extraction, and resuspended in tissue culture media, Excell 302 (Catalog # 14312-79P, JRH Biosciences, Lenexa, KS). Cells for transfection, CHO DG44 cells, were kept in logarithmic growth, and 10⁷ cells harvested for each

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

transfection reaction. Linearized DNA was added to the CHO cells in a total volume of 0.8 ml for electroporation.

Stable production of the 2H7 scFv-Ig fusion protein (SEQ. ID NO:10) was achieved by electroporation of a selectable, amplifiable plasmid, pD18, containing the 2H7 scFv-Ig cDNA under the control of the CMV promoter, into Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cells (all cell lines from American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA, unless otherwise noted). The 2H7 expression cassette was subcloned downstream of the CMV promoter into the vector multiple cloning site as a ~1.6 kb HindIII-XbaI fragment. The pD18 vector is a modified version of pcDNA3 encoding the DHFR selectable marker with an attenuated promoter to increase selection pressure for the plasmid. Plasmid DNA was prepared using Qiagen maxiprep kits, and purified plasmid was linearized at a unique AseI site prior to phenol extraction and ethanol precipitation. Salmon sperm DNA (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) was added as carrier DNA, and 100 µg each of plasmid and carrier DNA was used to transfect 10⁷ CHO DG44 cells by electroporation. Cells were grown to logarithmic phase in Excell 302 media (JRH Biosciences) containing glutamine (4mM), pyruvate, recombinant insulin, penicillin-streptomycin, and 2X DMEM nonessential amino acids (all from Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland), hereafter referred to as "Excell 302 complete" media. Media for untransfected cells also contained HT (diluted from a 100X solution of hypoxanthine and thymidine) (Invitrogen/Life Technologies). Media for transfections under selection contained varying levels of methotrexate (Sigma-Aldrich) as selective agent, ranging from 50 nM to 5 µM. Electroporations were performed at 275 volts, 950 µF. Transfected cells were allowed to recover overnight in non-selective media prior to selective plating in 96 well flat bottom plates (Costar) at varying serial dilutions ranging from 125 cells/well to 2000 cells/well. Culture media for cell cloning was Excell 302 complete, containing 100 nM methotrexate. Once clonal outgrowth was sufficient, serial dilutions of culture supernatants from master wells were screened for binding to CD20-CHO transfected cells. The clones with the highest production of the fusion protein were expanded into T25 and then T75 flasks to provide adequate numbers of cells for freezing and for scaling up production of the 2H7scFvIg. Production levels were further increased in cultures from three clones by progressive amplification in methotrexate containing culture media. At each successive passage of cells, the Excell 302 complete

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

media contained an increased concentration of methotrexate, such that only the cells that amplified the DHFR plasmid could survive.

Supernatants were collected from CHO cells expressing the 2H7scFv-Ig, filtered through 0.2 μ m PES express filters (Nalgene, Rochester, NY) and were passed
5 over a Protein A-agarose (IPA 300 crosslinked agarose) column (Repligen, Needham, MA). The column was washed with PBS, and then bound protein was eluted using 0.1 M citrate buffer, pH 3.0. Fractions were collected and eluted protein was neutralized using 1M Tris, pH 8.0, prior to dialysis overnight in PBS. Concentration of the purified 2H7scFv-Ig (SEQ ID NO:__) was determined by absorption at 280 nm. An extinction
10 coefficient of 1.77 was determined using the protein analysis tools in the Vector Nti Version 6.0 Software package (Informax, North Bethesda, MD). This program uses the amino acid composition data to calculate extinction coefficients.

Production levels of 2H7scFv-Ig by transfected, stable CHO cells were analyzed by flow cytometry. Purified 2H7scFv-Ig to CHO cells was allowed to bind to
15 CHO cells that expressed CD20 (CD20 CHO) and analyzed by flow cytometry using a fluorescein-conjugated anti-human IgG second step reagent (Catalog Numbers H10101 and H10501, CalTag, Burlingame, CA). Figure 2 (top) shows a standard curve generated by titration of 2H7scFv-Ig binding to CD20 CHO. At each concentration of 2H7scFv-Ig, the mean brightness of the fluorescein signal in linear units is shown. Supernatants collected
20 from T flasks containing stable CHO cell clones expressing 2H7scFv-Ig were then allowed to bind to CD20 CHO and the binding was analyzed by flow cytometry. The fluorescein signal generated by 2H7scFv-Ig contained in the supernatants was measured and the 2H7scFv-Ig concentration in the supernatants was calculated from the standard curve (Figure 2, bottom).

Purified 2H7scFv-Ig (SEQ ID NO:__) was analyzed by electrophoresis on SDS-Polyacrylamide gels. Samples of 2H7scFv-Ig, purified by independent Protein A
25 Agarose column runs, were boiled in SDS sample buffer without reduction of disulfide bonds and applied to SDS 10% Tris-BIS gels (Catalog # NP0301, Novex, Carlsbad, CA). Twenty micrograms of each purified batch was loaded on the gels. The proteins were
30 visualized after electrophoresis by Coomassie Blue staining (Pierce Gel Code Blue Stain Reagent, Catalog #24590, Pierce, Rockford, IL), and destaining in distilled water. Molecular weight markers were included on the same gel (Kaleidoscope Prestained

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Standards, Catalog # 161-0324, Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). The results are presented in Figure 3. The numbers above the lanes designate independent purification batches. The molecular weights in kilodaltons of the size markers are indicated on the left side of the figure. Further experiments with alternative sample preparation conditions indicated that
5 reduction of disulfide bonds by boiling the protein in SDS sample buffer containing DTT or 2-mercaptoethanol caused the 2H7scFv-Ig to aggregate.

Any number of other immunological parameters may be monitored using routine assays that are well known in the art. These may include, for example, antibody dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) assays, secondary *in vitro* antibody
10 responses, flow immunocytofluorimetric analysis of various peripheral blood or lymphoid mononuclear cell subpopulations using well established marker antigen systems, immunohistochemistry or other relevant assays. These and other assays may be found, for example, in Rose *et al.* (Eds.), *Manual of Clinical Laboratory Immunology*, 5th Ed., 1997 American Society of Microbiology, Washington, DC.

15 The ability of 2H7scFv-Ig to kill CD20 positive cells in the presence of complement was tested using B cell lines Ramos and Bjab. Rabbit complement (Pel-Freez, Rogers, AK) was used in the assay at a final dilution of 1/10. Purified 2H7scFv-Ig was incubated with B cells and complement for 45 minutes at 37 °C, followed by counting of live and dead cells by trypan blue exclusion. The results in Figure 4A show that in the
20 presence of rabbit complement, 2H7scFv-Ig lysed B cells expressing CD20.

The ability of 2H7scFv-Ig to kill CD20 positive cells in the presence of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) was tested by measuring the release of ⁵¹Cr from labeled Bjab cells in a 4-hour assay using a 100:1 ratio of PBMC to Bjab cells. The results shown in Figure 4B indicated that 2H7scFv-Ig can mediate antibody dependent
25 cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) because the release of ⁵¹Cr was higher in the presence of both PBMC and 2H7scFv-Ig than in the presence of either PBMC or 2H7scFv-Ig alone.

EXAMPLE 3

EFFECT OF SIMULTANEOUS LIGATION OF CD20 AND CD40 ON GROWTH OF NORMAL B CELLS, AND ON CD95 EXPRESSION, AND INDUCTION OF APOPTOSIS

30 This Example illustrates the effect on cell proliferation of cross-linking of CD20 and CD40 expressed on the cell surface.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Dense resting B cells were isolated from human tonsil by a Percoll step gradient and T cells were removed by E-rosetting. Proliferation of resting, dense tonsillar B cells was measured by uptake of ^3H -thymidine during the last 12 hours of a 4-day experiment. Proliferation was measured in quadruplicate cultures with means and standard deviations as shown. Murine anti-human CD20 monoclonal antibody 1F5 (anti-CD20) was used alone or was cross-linked with anti-murine κ monoclonal antibody 187.1 (anti-CD20XL). CD40 activation was accomplished using soluble human CD154 fused with murine CD8 (CD154) (Hollenbaugh *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 11: 4212-21 (1992)), and CD40 cross-linking was accomplished using anti-murine CD8 monoclonal antibody 53-6 (CD154XL). This procedure allowed simultaneous cross-linking of CD20 and CD40 on the cell surface. The results are presented in Figure 5.

The effect of CD20 and CD40 cross-linking on Ramos cells, a B lymphoma cell line, was examined. Ramos cells were analyzed for CD95 (Fas) expression and percent apoptosis eighteen hours after treatment (no goat anti-mouse IgG (GAM)) and/or cross-linking (+GAM) using murine monoclonal antibodies that specifically bind CD20 (1F5) and CD40 (G28-5). Control cells were treated with a non-binding isotype control (64.1) specific for CD3.

Treated Ramos cells were harvested, incubated with FITC-anti-CD95, and analyzed by flow cytometry to determine the relative expression level of Fas on the cell surface after CD20 or CD40 cross-linking. Data is plotted as mean fluorescence of cells after treatment with the stimuli indicated (Figure 6A).

Treated Ramos cells from the same experiment were harvested and binding of annexin V was measured to indicate the percentage apoptosis in the treated cultures. Apoptosis was measured by binding of Annexin V 18 hours after cross-linking of CD20 and CD40 using 1F5 and G28-5 followed by cross-linking with GAM. Binding of Annexin V was measured using a FITC-Annexin V kit (Catalog # PN-IM2376, Immunotech, Marseille, France). Annexin V binding is known to be an early event in progression of cells into apoptosis. Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, is a process characterized by a cascade of catabolic reactions leading to cell death by suicide. In the early phase of apoptosis, before cells change morphology and hydrolyze DNA, the integrity of the cell membrane is maintained but cells lose the asymmetry of their membrane phospholipids, exposing negatively charged phospholipids, such as

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

- phosphatidylserine, at the cell surface. Annexin V, a calcium and phospholipid binding protein, binds preferentially and with high affinity to phosphatidylserine. Results demonstrating the effect of cross-linking both CD20 and CD40 on expression of the FAS receptor (CD95) are presented in Figure 6B. The effect of cross-linking of both CD20 and
- 5 CD40 on Annexin V binding to cells is shown in Figure 6B.

EXAMPLE 4

CONSTRUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF 2H7 scFv-CD154 FUSION PROTEINS

- To construct a molecule capable of binding to both CD20 and CD40, cDNA encoding the 2H7 scFv was fused with cDNA encoding CD154, the CD40 ligand. The
- 10 2H7 scFv cDNA encoded on the HindIII-BclI fragment was removed from the 2H7 scFvIg construct, and inserted into a pD18 vector along with a BamHI-XbaI cDNA fragment encoding the extracellular domain of human CD154. The extracellular domain is encoded at the carboxy terminus of CD154, similar to other type II membrane proteins.

- The extracellular domain of human CD154 was PCR amplified using cDNA
- 15 generated with random primers and RNA from human T lymphocytes activated with PHA (phytohemagglutinin). The primer sets included two different 5' or sense primers that created fusion junctions at two different positions within the extracellular domain of CD154. Two different fusion junctions were designed that resulted in a short or truncated form (form S4) including amino acids 108 (Glu)-261 (Leu) + (Glu), and a long or complete
- 20 form (form L2) including amino acids 48 (Arg) -261 (Leu) + (Glu), of the extracellular domain of CD154, both constructed as BamHI-XbaI fragments. The sense primer that fuses the two different truncated extracellular domains to the 2H7scFv includes a BamHI site for cloning. The sense primer for the S4 form of the CD154 cDNA is designated SEQUENCE ID NO: 11 or CD154BAM108 and encodes a 34 mer with the following
- 25 sequence : 5'-gtt gtc gga tcc aga aaa cag ctt tga aat gca a-3', while the antisense primer is designated SEQUENCE ID NO: 12 or CD154XBA and encodes a 44 mer with the following sequence: 5'-gtt gtt tct aga tta tca ctc gag ttt gag taa gcc aaa gga cg-3'.

- The oligonucleotide primers used in amplifying the long form (L2) of the CD154 extracellular domain encoding amino acids 48 (Arg)-261 (Leu) + (Glu), were as
- 30 follows: The sense primer designated CD154 BAM48 (SEQUENCE ID NO:13) encoded a 35-mer with the following sequence: 5'-gtt gtc gga tcc aag aag gtt gga caa gat aga ag-3'. The antisense primer designated or CD154XBA (SEQUENCE ID NO:_) encoded the 44-

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

mer: 5'-gtt gtt tct aga tta tca ctc gag ttt gag taa gcc aaa gga cg-3'. Other PCR reaction conditions were identical to those used for amplifying the 2H7 scFv (see Example 1). PCR fragments were purified by PCR quick kits (QIAGEN, San Diego, CA), eluted in 30 µl ddH₂O, and digested with BamHI and XbaI (Roche) restriction endonucleases in a 40 µl reaction volume at 37 °C for 3 hours. Fragments were gel purified, purified using QIAEX kits according to the manufacturer's instructions (QIAGEN), and ligated along with the 2H7 HindIII-BclI fragment into the pD18 expression vector digested with HindIII+XbaI. Ligation reactions were transformed into DH5-alpha chemically competent bacteria and plated onto LB plates containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin. Transformants were grown overnight at 37 °C, and isolated colonies used to inoculate 3 ml liquid cultures in Luria Broth containing 100 µg/ml ampicillin. Clones were screened after mini-plasmid preparations (QIAGEN) for insertion of both the 2H7 scFv and the CD154 extracellular domain fragments.

The 2H7scFv-CD154 construct cDNAs were subjected to cycle sequencing on a PE 9700 thermocycler using a 25-cycle program that included denaturing at 96 °C, 10 seconds, annealing at 50 °C for 5 seconds, and extension at 60°C, for 4 minutes. The sequencing primers used were pD18 forward (SEQ ID NO:___: 5'-gtctatataagcagagctctggc-3') and pD18 reverse (SEQ ID NO:___: 5'-cgaggctgatcagcgagctctagca-3') primers. In addition, an internal primer was used that had homology to the human CD154 sequence (SEQ ID NO:___: 5'-ccgcaatttgaggattctgtacac-3'). Sequencing reactions included primers at 3.2 pmol, approximately 200 ng DNA template, and 8 µl sequencing mix. Sequencing reactions were performed using the Big Dye Terminator Ready Sequencing Mix (PE-Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Samples were subsequently purified using Centriscp columns (Princeton Separations, 25 Adelphia, NJ). The eluates were dried in a Savant speed-vacuum dryer, denatured in 20 µl template Suppression Reagent (ABI) at 95°C for 2 minutes, and analyzed on an ABI 310 Genetic Analyzer (PE-Applied Biosystems). The sequence was edited, translated, and analyzed using Vector Nti version 6.0 (Informax, North Bethesda, MD). The 2H7scFv-CD154 L2 cDNA sequence and predicted amino acid sequence is presented in Figure 7A, and 2H7scFv-CD154 S4 cDNA sequence and predicted amino acid sequence is presented in Figure 7B.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

The binding activity of the 2H7 scFv-CD154 fusion proteins (SEQ. ID NO: ___ and ___) to CD20 and CD40 simultaneously was determined by flow cytometry. The assay used CHO cell targets that express CD20. After a 45-minute incubation of CD20 CHO cells with supernatants from cells transfected with the 2H7 scFv-CD154 expression
5 plasmid, the CD20 CHO cells were washed twice and incubated with biotin-conjugated CD40-Ig fusion protein in PBS/2% FBS. After 45 min, cells were washed twice and incubated with phycoerythrin (PE)-labeled streptavidin at 1:100 in PBS/2% FBS (Molecular Probes, Eugene OR). After an additional 30 min incubation, cells were washed 2X and were analyzed by flow cytometry. The results show that the 2H7 scFv-CD154 molecule
10 was able to bind to CD20 on the cell surface and to capture biotin-conjugated CD40 from solution (Figure 8).

To determine the effect of the 2H7scFv-CD154 on growth and viability of B lymphoma and lymphoblastoid cell lines, cells were incubated with 2H7scFv-CD154 L2 (SEQ. ID NO: ___) for 12 hours and then examined for binding of Annexin V. Binding of
15 Annexin V was measured using a FITC-Annexin V kit (Immunotech, Marseille, France, Catalog # PN-IM2376). B cell lines were incubated in 1 ml cultures with dilutions of concentrated, dialyzed supernatants from cells expressing secreted forms of the 2H7scFv-CD154 fusion proteins. The results are presented in Figure 9.

The growth rate of the Ramos B lymphoma cell line in the presence of
20 2H7scFv-CD154 was examined by uptake of ³H-thymidine for the last 6 hours of a 24-hour culture. The effect of 2H7scFv-CD154 on cell proliferation is shown in Figure 10.

EXAMPLE 5

CONSTRUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF CYTOXB ANTIBODY DERIVATIVES

CytoxB antibodies were prepared using 2H7 scFv-IgG polypeptide. The
25 2H7 scFv (see Example 1) was linked to the human IgG1 Fc domain via an altered hinge domain (see Figure 11). Cysteine residues in the hinge region were substituted with serine residues by site-directed mutagenesis and other methods known in the art. The mutant hinge was fused either to a wild-type Fc domain to create one construct, designated CytoxB-MHWTG1C, or was fused to a mutated Fc domain (CytoxB-MHMG1C) that had
30 additional mutations introduced into the CH2 domain. Amino acid residues in CH2 that are implicated in effector function are illustrated in Figure 11. Mutations of one or more of these residues may reduce FcR binding and mediation of effector functions. In this

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Example, the leucine residue 234 known in the art to be important to Fc receptor binding, was mutated in the 2H7 scFv fusion protein, CytoxB-[MG1H/MG1C]. In another construct, the human IgG1 hinge region was substituted with a portion of the human IgA hinge, which was fused to wild-type human Fc domain (CytoxB-IgAHWTHG1C). (See Figure 11). This mutated hinge region allows expression of a mixture of monomeric and dimeric molecules that retain functional properties of the human IgG1 CH2 and CH3 domains. Synthetic, recombinant cDNA expression cassettes for these molecules were constructed and polypeptides were expressed in CHODG44 cells according to methods described in Example 2.

Purified fusion protein derivatives of CytoxB-scFvIg molecules were analyzed by SDS-PAGE according to the methods described in Example 2. Polyacrylamide gels were run under non-reducing and reducing conditions. Two different molecule weight marker sets, BioRad prestained markers, (BioRad, Hercules, CA) and Novex Multimark molecular weight markers were loaded onto each gel. The migration patterns of the different constructs and of Rituximab™ are presented in Figure 12.

The ability of the different derivatives of CytoxB-scFvIg molecules to mediate ADCC was measured using the Bjab B lymphoma cells as the target and freshly prepared human PBMCs as effector cells. (See Example 2). Effector to target ratios were varied as follows: 70:1, 35:1, and 18:1, with the number of Bjab cells per well remaining constant but the number of PBMCs were varied. Bjab cells were labeled for 2 hours with ⁵¹Cr and aliquoted at a cell density of 5 x 10⁴ cells/well to each well of flat-bottom 96 well plates. Purified fusion proteins or rituximab were added at a concentration of 10 µg/ml to the various dilutions of PBMCs. Spontaneous release was measured without addition of PBMC or fusion protein, and maximal release was measured by the addition of detergent (1% NP-40) to the appropriate wells. Reactions were incubated for 4 hours, and 100 µl of culture supernatant was harvested to a Lumaplate (Packard Instruments) and allowed to dry overnight prior to counting cpm released. The results are presented in Figure 13.

Complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) activity of the CytoxB derivatives was also measured. Reactions were performed essentially as described in Example 2. The results are presented in Figure 14 as percent of dead cells to total cells for each concentration of fusion protein.

EXAMPLE 6

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

IN VIVO STUDIES IN MACAQUES

Initial *in vivo* studies with CytoxB derivatives have been performed in nonhuman primates. Figure 15 shows data characterizing the serum half-life of CytoxB in monkeys. Measurements were performed on serum samples obtained from two different
 5 macaques (J99231 and K99334) after doses of 6 mg/kg were administered to each monkey on the days indicated by arrows. For each sample, the level of 2H7scFvIg present was estimated by comparison to a standard curve generated by binding of purified CytoxB-(MHWGTG1C)-Ig fusion protein to CD20 CHO cells (see Example 2). The data are tabulated in the bottom panel of the Figure 15.

10 The effect of CytoxB-(MHWGTG1C)Ig fusion protein on levels of circulating CD40+ cells in macaques was investigated. Complete blood counts were performed at each of the days indicated in Figure 16. In addition, FACS (fluorescence activated cell sorter) assays were performed on peripheral blood lymphocytes using a CD40-specific fluorescein conjugated antibody to detect B cells among the cell population.
 15 The percentage of positive cells was then used to calculate the number of B cells in the original samples. The data are graphed as thousands of B cells per microliter of blood measured at the days indicated after injection (Figure 16).

EXAMPLE 7

CONSTRUCTION AND EXPRESSION OF AN ANTI-CD19 scFv-Ig FUSION PROTEIN

20 An anti-CD19 scFv-Ig fusion protein was constructed, transfected into eukaryotic cells, and expressed according to methods presented in Examples 1, 2, and 5 and standard in the art. The variable heavy chain regions and variable light chain regions were cloned from RNA isolated from hybridoma cells producing antibody HD37, which specifically binds to CD19. Expression levels of a HD37scFv-IgAHWTG1C and a
 25 HD37scFv-IgMHWGTG1C were measured and compared to a standard curve generated using purified HD37 scFvIg. The results are presented in Figure 17.

EXAMPLE 8

CONSTRUCTION AND EXPRESSION OF AN ANTI-L6 scFv-Ig FUSION PROTEIN

30 An scFv-Ig fusion protein was constructed using variable regions derived from an anti-carcinoma monoclonal antibody, L6. The fusion protein was constructed, transfected into eukaryotic cells, and expressed according to methods presented in

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Examples 1, 2, and 5 and standard in the art. Expression levels of L6 scFv-IgAH WCH2 CH3 and L6 scFv-(SSS-S)H WCH2 WCH3 were measured and compared to a standard curve generated using purified L6 scFvIg. The results are presented in Figure 18.

EXAMPLE 9

CHARACTERIZATION OF VARIOUS SCFV-IG FUSION PROTEINS

In addition to the scFv-Ig fusion protein already described, G28-1 (anti-CD37) scFv-Ig fusion proteins were prepared essentially as described in Examples 1 and 5. The variable regions of the heavy and light chains were cloned according to methods known in the art. ADCC activity of 2H7-MHWTG1C, 2H7-IgAHWTG1C, G28-1-MHWTG1C, G28-1 IgAHWTG1C, HD37- MHWTG1C, and HD37- IgAHWTG1C was determined according to methods described above (see Example 2). Results are presented in Figure 19. ADCC activity of L6scFv-IgAHWTG1C and L6scFv-IgMHWTG1C was measured using the 2981 human lung carcinoma cell line. The results are presented in Figure 20. The murine L6 monoclonal antibody is known not to exhibit ADCC activity.

The purified proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE under reducing and non-reducing conditions. Samples were prepared and gels run essentially as described in Examples 2 and 5. The results for the L6 and 2H7 scFv-Ig fusion proteins are presented in Figure 21 and the results for the G28-1 and HD37 scFv-Ig fusion proteins are presented in Figure 22.

EXAMPLE 10

CONSTRUCTION AND EXPRESSION OF ANTI-CD20 SCFV-LLAMA IG FUSION PROTEINS

This Example illustrates the cloning of llama IgG1, IgG2, and IgG3 constant region domains and the construction of immunoglobulin fusion proteins with each of the three constant regions and anti-CD20 scFv.

The constant regions of llama IgG1, IgG2, and IgG3 immunoglobulins were cloned and inserted into mammalian vector constructs containing an anti-CD20 single chain Fv, 2H7 scFv. Total RNA was isolated from peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from llama blood (Triple J Farms, Bellingham, WA) by lysing the lymphocytes in TRIzol® (Invitrogen Life Technologies, Carlsbad, CA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. One microgram (1 µg) of total RNA was used as template to prepare cDNA by reverse transcription. The RNA and 200 ng random primers were combined and

WO 2005/017148

PC/T/US2003/041600

denatured at 72 °C for 10 minutes prior to addition of enzyme. Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Invitrogen Life Technologies) was added to the RNA plus primer mixture in a total volume of 25 µl in the presence of 5X second strand buffer and 0.1 M DTT provided with the enzyme. The reverse transcription reaction was allowed to proceed at 42 °C for one hour. The cDNA was amplified by PCR using sequence specific primers. The 5' primers were designed according to published sequences for the V_{HH} and V_H domains of camelids. The 3' primer, which was used to amplify all three isotypes, was designed using mammalian CH3 domain sequences as a guide. The following specific primers were used. The Bcl and XbaI sites are indicated by underlined italicized sequences.

10 5' primer for llama IgG1 constant region

LLG1-5'bgl: 5'-gtt gtt gat caa gaa cca cat gga gga tgc acg tg-3'
(SEQ ID NO:___)

5' primer for llama IgG2 constant region

15 LLG2-5'bgl: 5'-gtt gtt gat caa gaa ccc aag aca cca aaa cc-3'
(SEQ ID NO:___)

5' primer for llama IgG3 constant region

LLG3-5'bgl: 5'-gtt gtt gat caa gcg cac cac agc gaa gac ccc-3'
(SEQ ID NO:___)

3' primer for llama IgG1, IgG2, and IgG3 constant regions

20 LLG123-3'X: 5'-gtt gtt ctt aga tta cta tt acc cga aga ctg ggt gat gga-3'
(SEQ ID NO:___)

PCR fragments of the expected size were cloned into TOPO® cloning vectors (Invitrogen Life Technologies) and then were sequenced. The sense sequencing primer, LLseqsense, had the sequence 5'-ctg aga tcg agt tca gct g-3' (SEQ ID NO:___), and the antisense primer, LLseqAS, had the sequence 5'-cct cct ttg gct ttg tct c-3' (SEQ ID NO:___). Sequencing was performed as described in Example 1. Figure 23 compares the amino acid sequence of the three isotype llama constant regions containing the hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains with the amino acid sequence of human IgG1 hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains.

30 After verifying the sequence, the amplified PCR products were digested with restriction enzymes BclI and XbaI to create compatible restriction sites. The digested fragments were then gel-purified, and the DNA was eluted using a QIAquick Gel

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Extraction Kit (QIAGEN, Valencia, CA). The 2H7scFv-Ig pD18 mammalian expression vector construct (see Example 2) was digested with BclI and XbaI to remove the human IgG hinge, CH2, and CH3 domains. The pD18 vector is a modified derivative of pCDNA3 that contains an attenuated DHFR gene, which serves as a selectable marker for mammalian expression (Hayden *et al.*, *Tissue Antigens* 48:242-54 (1996)). The purified llama IgG1, IgG2, and IgG3 constant region PCR products were ligated by T4 DNA ligase (Roche Molecular Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN) into the double-digested 2H7 scFv-pD18 vector at room temperature overnight according to the manufacturer's instructions. After ligation, the ligation products were transformed into *E. coli* DH5 α bacteria (BD Biosciences, Palo Alto, CA) and plated according to standard molecular biology procedures and manufacturer's instructions. Isolated colonies were chosen to screen for transformants containing the correct inserts.

For expression of the encoded polypeptides, plasmid DNA from positive clones was transiently transfected into COS-7 cells using DEAE-dextran (Hayden *et al.*, *Ther Immunol.* 1:3-15 (1994)). COS-7 cells were seeded at approximately 3×10^6 cells per 150 mm plate and grown overnight until the cells were about 75% confluent. Cells were then washed once with serum-free DMEM (Invitrogen Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY). Transfection supernatant (10 ml) containing 400 μ g/ml DEAE-dextran, 0.1 mM chloroquine, and 5 μ g/ml of the DNA constructs were added to the cells, which were then incubated at 37 °C for 3-4 hrs. After incubation, cells were pulsed with 10 ml of 10% dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) in 1x PBS at room temperature for 2 minutes. Cells were then placed back into fully supplemented DMEM/10% FBS (1% L-glutamine, 1% penicillin/streptomycin, 1% sodium pyruvate, 1% MEM essential amino acids) (Invitrogen Life Technologies). After 24 hours, the media was replaced with serum-free fully supplemented DMEM (Invitrogen Life Technologies), and the cells were maintained up to 21 days with media changes every 3-4 days.

Ig-fusion proteins were purified by passing COS cell culture supernatants through Protein A Agarose (Repligen, Cambridge, MA) columns. After application of the culture supernatant, the Protein A columns were then washed with 1x PBS (Invitrogen Life Technologies). Bound Ig-fusion proteins were eluted with 0.1 M citric acid (pH 2.8), and the collected fractions were immediately neutralized with Tris base (pH 10.85). The fractions containing protein were identified by measuring the optical density (A_{280}) and

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

then were pooled, dialyzed against 1x PBS, (Invitrogen Life Technologies) and filtered through a 0.2 µm filter.

The purified Ig-fusion proteins were analyzed by SDS-PAGE. Aliquots of 2H7 scFv-llama IgG1, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG2, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG3, and Rituxan® (Rituximab, anti-CD20 antibody, Genentech, Inc. and IDEC Pharmaceuticals Corp.) (5 µg protein) were combined with 25 µl 2x NuPAGE® SDS Sample Buffer (Invitrogen Life Technologies) (non-reduced samples). Samples of each protein were also prepared in reducing sample buffer containing 5% 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). Molecular weight markers (Invitrogen Life Technologies) were applied to the gels in non-reducing buffer only. The proteins were fractionated on NuPAGE® 10% Bis-Tris gels (Invitrogen Life Technologies). After electrophoresis (approximately 1 hour), the gels were washed three times, five minutes each, with Distilled Water (Invitrogen Life Technologies) and then stained in 50 ml Bio-Safe Coomassie Stain (BioRad, Hercules, CA) overnight at room temperature. After a wash in Distilled Water, the gels were photographed. The migration pattern of each Ig-fusion protein is presented in Figure 24.

The ability of the 2H7 scFv-llama Ig fusion proteins to bind to cells expressing CD20 was demonstrated by flow cytometry. Serial dilutions starting at 25 µg/ml of purified 2H7 scFv-llama IgG1, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG2, and 2H7 scFv-llama IgG3 were prepared and incubated with CD20-transfected (CD20+) CHO cells (from the laboratory of Dr. S. Skov, Institute of Medical Microbiology and Immunology, Copenhagen Denmark in 1% FBS 1x PBS media (Invitrogen Life Technologies) for one hour on ice. After the incubation, the cells were then centrifuged and washed with 1% FBS in 1x PBS. To detect bound 2H7 scFv-llama Ig, the cells were incubated for one hour on ice with fluorescein-conjugated goat anti-camelid IgG (heavy and light chain) (1:100) (Triple J Farms). The cells were then centrifuged and resuspended in 1% FBS-1x PBS and analyzed using a Coulter Epics XL cell sorter (Beckman Coulter, Miami, FL). The data (percent of maximum brightness) are presented in Figure 25.

EXAMPLE 11

EFFECTOR FUNCTION OF ANTI-CD20 scFv-LLAMA Ig FUSION PROTEINS

This Example demonstrates the ability of anti-CD20 llama IgG1, IgG2, and IgG3 fusion proteins to mediate complement dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) and antibody dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC).

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

The ability of the 2H7 scFv-llama IgG fusion proteins to kill CD20 positive cells in the presence of complement was tested using the BJAB human B cell line. Rabbit complement was obtained from 3-4 week old rabbits (Pel-Freez, Brown Deer, WI). BJAB cells (2×10^6 cells/ml) were combined with rabbit complement (final dilution 1:10) and

5 purified 2H7 Ig fusion proteins. 2H7 scFv-llama IgG1, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG2, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG3, and 2H7 scFv-human IgG1 wild type hinge-CH2-CH3) (Example 1) were added at 1:3 serial dilutions beginning at a concentration of 30 μ g/ml. After one hour at 37 °C, cell viability was determined by counting live and dead cells by trypan blue exclusion (0.4%) (Invitrogen Life Technologies) using a hemacytometer (Bright-line,

10 Horsham, PA). The percent killing was calculated by dividing the number of dead cells by the number of total cells (dead + live cells). The data presented in Figure 26 show that all Ig fusion proteins had CDC activity.

The ADCC activity of the 2H7 scFv-llama IgG fusion proteins was determined using BJAB cells as target cells and human or llama peripheral blood

15 mononuclear cells (PBMC) as effector cells. BJAB cells were pre-incubated for approximately 2 hours with ^{51}Cr (100 μ Ci) (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ) in fully supplemented IMDM (Invitrogen Life Technologies) containing 15% FBS. The cells were mixed intermittently during the pre-incubation period. Fresh, resting human PBMC were purified from whole blood using Lymphocyte Separation Media (LSM) (ICN

20 Pharmaceuticals, New York, NY). PBMC were combined with labeled BJAB cells (5×10^4 cells per well of 96 well tissue culture plate) at ratios of 25:1, 50:1, and 100:1. To each combination was added 10 μ g/ml of purified 2H7 scFv-llama IgG1, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG2, 2H7 scFv-llama IgG3, Rituximab, or no anti-CD20 antibody. The mixtures were incubated for 6 hours at 37 °C. Supernatant from each reaction containing ^{51}Cr released from lysed

25 cells was collected onto a LumaPlate-96 filter plate (Packard, Meriden, CT), which was dried overnight. The amount of ^{51}Cr was measured by a TopCount NXT plate reader (Packard). Figure 27 shows that the 2H7 scFv-llama IgG2 fusion protein was the most effective llama fusion protein in mediating ADCC. Each data point represents the average measurement of triplicate wells.

ADCC activity was affected by the source of effector cells. Llama PBMC

30 were isolated from llama blood (Triple J Farms) using LSM. Llama effector cells were added at the same ratios to BJAB target cells as described for the ADCC assay using

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

human effector cells. The cells were combined with 10 µg/ml of purified 2H7 scFv-Ilama IgG1, 2H7 scFv-Ilama IgG2, 2H7 scFv-Ilama IgG3, Rituximab, or no anti-CD20 antibody. The results are presented in Figure 28.

EXAMPLE 12

5 CONSTRUCTION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF scFv Ig FUSION PROTEINS

EXPRESSED ON THE CELL SURFACE

This Example describes a retroviral transfection system for ectopic surface expression of genetically engineered cell surface receptors composed of scFvs that bind costimulatory receptors. The Example also demonstrates the effector function of these
10 various scFv Ig fusion proteins expressed on the surface of target cells.

The heavy and light chain variable regions were cloned from murine monoclonal antibodies specific for various costimulatory receptors, and single chain Fv constructs were prepared essentially as described in Example 1. Antibodies included 2H7, anti-human CD20; 40.2.220, anti-human CD40; 2E12, anti-human CD28; 10A8, anti-
15 human CD152 (anti-CTLA-4); and 500A2, anti-murine CD3. The heavy chain and light chain variable regions of each antibody were cloned according to standard methods for cloning immunoglobulin genes and as described in Example 1. Single chain Fv constructs were prepared as described in Example 1 by inserting a nucleotide sequence encoding a (gly₄ser)₃ peptide linker between the VL region nucleotide sequence of 40.2.220, 2E12,
20 10A8, and 500A2, respectively (SEQ ID NOs: __, respectively) and the VH region nucleotide sequence of 40.2.220, 2E12, 10A8, and 500A2, respectively (SEQ ID NOs: __, respectively). The polypeptide sequence for VL of 40.2.220, 2E12, 10A8, and 500A2 are set forth in SEQ ID NOs: __, respectively, and the polypeptide sequence for VH of 40.2.220, 2E12, 10A8, and 500A2 are set forth in SEQ ID NOs: __, respectively. Each
25 scFv polynucleotide (SEQ ID NOs: __ for 40.2.220, 2E12, 10A8, and 500A2, respectively) was then fused to human IgG1 mutant hinge (CCC→SSS) and mutant CH2 (proline to serine mutation at residue 238 (238 numbering according to EU nomenclature, Ward *et al.*, 1995 *Therap. Immunol.* 2:77-94; residue 251 according to Kabat *et al.*) and wild type CH3 domains according to the methods described in Example 5 and 11. Each scFv mutant IgG1
30 fusion polynucleotide sequence was then fused in frame to sequences encoding the transmembrane domain and cytoplasmic tail of human CD80 (SEQ ID NO: __), such that when the fusion protein was expressed in the transfected cell, CD80 provided an anchor for

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

surface expression of the scFv Ig fusion protein. cDNAs encoding the scFv-IgG-CD80 fusion proteins (SEQ ID NOs:___ for 40.2.220-, 2E12-, 10A8-, and 500A2-scFv-IgG-CD80, respectively) were inserted into the retroviral vector pLNCX (BD Biosciences Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) according to standard molecular biology procedures and vendor
5 instructions. The scFv-Ig-CD80 cDNA was inserted between the 5'LTR-neomycin resistance gene-CMV promoter sequences and the 3'LTR sequence. The retroviral constructs were transfected into Reh, an acute lymphocytic leukemia cell line (ATCC CRL-8286). Transfected cells were screened to select clones that were expressing scFv-Ig fusion proteins on the cell surface.

10 CDC and ADCC assays were performed with the transfected Reh cells to determine if expression of the scFv-Ig polypeptides on the cell surface augmented effector cell function. Reh cells expressing anti-human CD152 scFv-mutant IgG-CD80 (SEQ ID NO:___); Reh anti-human CD28 scFv- mutant IgG-CD80 (SEQ ID NO:___); Reh anti-human CD28 scFv- mutant IgG-CD80 (SEQ ID NO:___); Reh anti-human CD40 scFv-
15 mutant IgG-CD80 (SEQ ID NO:___); Reh anti-human CD20 scFv- mutant IgG-CD80 (SEQ ID NO:___) were combined with human PBMC (see Example 11) and rabbit complement (10 µg/ml) for one hour at 37 °C. Untransfected Reh cells were included as a control. Viability of the cells was determined by trypan blue exclusion, and the percent of killed cells was calculated (see Example 11). Figure 29 shows the effectiveness of the scFv-IgG-
20 CD80 fusion proteins when expressed on the cell surface of tumor cells to mediate complement dependent cytotoxicity.

The same transfected Reh cells tested in the CDC assay plus Reh cells transfected with the polynucleotide construct that encodes anti-murine CD3-scFv-Ig-CD80 (SEQ ID NO:___) were analyzed for ADCC activity (see Example 11). Untransfected and
25 transfected Reh cells were pre-labeled with ⁵¹Cr (100 µCi) (Amersham) for two hours at 37 °C. Human PBMC served as effector cells and were added to the Reh target cells (5 x 10⁴ cells per well of 96 well plate) at ratios of 5:1, 2.5:1, and 1.25:1. After five hours at 37 °C, culture supernatants were harvested and analyzed as described in Example 11. Percent specific killing was calculated according to the following equation: ((experiment
30 release minus spontaneous release)/(maximum release minus spontaneous release)) x 100. The data are presented in Figure 30. Each data point represents the average of quadruplicate samples.

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

Using the same procedures described above, the same results with other binding domains were obtained using the following monoclonal antibodies monoclonal antibodies as sources of sFv: for CD20, 1F5 (Genbank AY 058907 and AY058906); for CD40, 2.36 and G28.5; for CD28, 9.3.

5 Cell surface expression of antibody binding domains is accomplished by fusing antibody scFvs to IgA hinge and constant regions and IgE hinge-acting region, *i.e.*, IgE CH2, and constant regions. Polynucleotides encoding an anti-4-1BB scFv, SB9 (anti-human 4-1BB) scFv, and 2e12 (anti-human CD40) fused to IgAH IgA T4 (four terminal CH3 residues deleted) fused to the CD80 transmembrane and cytoplasmic domains and IgE
10 Fc regions are shown in SEQ ID NOs: _____. The encoded polypeptides are shown in SEQ ID NOs: _____.

EXAMPLE 13

CONSTRUCTION AND SEQUENCE OF HUMAN IG HINGE-CH2-CH3 MUTANTS AND 2H7

VARIABLE REGION MUTANTS

15 This Example describes construction of scFv fusion proteins containing mutant human IgG1 and IgA constant regions. This Example also describes construction of a 2H7 scFv mutant with a single point mutation in the variable heavy chain region. Mutations were introduced into variable and constant region domains according to methods described herein and known in the molecular biology arts. Figure 31 presents
20 nomenclature for the Ig constant region constructs.

The human IgG1 hinge region of the 2H7 scFv human IgG1 hinge-CH2-CH3 fusion proteins was mutated to substitute cysteine residues that in a whole immunoglobulin are involved in forming disulfide bonds between two heavy chain molecules. One mutant, 2H7 scFv fused to a human IgG1 hinge region in which all three
25 cysteine residues were mutated to serine residues (MTH (SSS)), was prepared as described in Example 5 (designated in Example 5 as CytoxB-MHWTG1C (includes wild type IgG1 CH2 and CH3 domains)) (now referred to as 2H7 scFv MTH (SSS) WTCH2CH3) and comprises the polynucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:____ encoding the polypeptide as set forth in SEQ ID NO____. The polynucleotide sequence encoding this mutant (SEQ ID
30 NO:____) was used as a template to create mutant hinge regions in which the first two cysteine residues were substituted with serine residues (IgG MTH (SSC)). An oligonucleotide was designed to substitute the third serine residue with a cysteine and had

WO 2005/017148

PCT/US2003/041600

the following sequence: 5'-gtt gtt gat cag gag ccc aaa tct tct gac aaa act cac aca tct cca cgc tgc cca gca cct g-3' (HuIgGMHncs3, SEQ ID NO: ____). A second mutant was prepared in which the mutant hinge had serine residues substituting the first and third cysteine residues (IgG MTH (SCS)). The sequence of the oligonucleotide to create this mutant was as follows: 5'-gtt gtt gat cag gag ccc aaa tct tct gac aaa act cac aca tgc cca cgc-3' (HuIgGMHncs2, SEQ ID NO: ____). A third mutant was prepared with cysteine residues substituted at the second and third positions (IgG MTH (CSS)), also using the IgG MTH (SSS) mutant as template, and an oligonucleotide having the sequence, 5'-gtt gtt gat cag gag ccc aaa tct tgt gac aaa act cac-3' (HuIgGMHncs1, SEQ ID NO: ____).

The oligonucleotides introducing the mutations into the hinge region were combined with template and a 3' oligonucleotide containing an XbaI site (underlined and italicized) (5'-gtt gtt tct aga tca tt acc cgg aga cag gga gag gct ctg ctg gta g-3' (SEQ ID NO: ____)) to amplify the mutant hinge-wild type (WT)-CH2-CH3 sequences by PCR. The IgG MTH CSS and IgG MTH SCS mutant sequences were amplified for 25 cycles with a denaturation profile of 94 °C, annealing at 52 °C for 30 seconds, and extension at 72 °C for 30 seconds. The IgG MTH SSC mutant sequence was amplified under slightly different conditions: denaturation profile of 94 °C, annealing at 45 °C for 30 seconds, and extension at 72 °C for 45 seconds. The amplified polynucleotides were inserted into the TOPO® cloning vector (Invitrogen Life Technologies) and then were sequenced as described in Example 1 to confirm the presence of the mutation. pD18 vector containing 2H7 scFv was digested to remove the constant region sequences essentially as described in Example 10. The mutant hinge-wild type CH2-CH3 regions were inserted in frame into the digested vector DNA to obtain vectors comprising 2H7 scFv MTH (CSS) WTCH2CH3 encoding DNA (SEQ ID NO: ____); 2H7 scFv MTH (SCS) WTCH2CH3 encoding DNA (SEQ ID NO: ____); and 2H7 scFv MTH (SSC) WTCH2CH3 encoding DNA (SEQ ID NO: ____).

A mutation of leucine to serine at position 11 in the first framework region of the heavy chain variable region (numbering according to Kabat *et al.*, *Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest*, 5th ed. Bethesda, MD: Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health (1991)) was introduced into the 2H7 scFv MTH (SSS) WTCH2CH3 fusion protein (SEQ ID NO: ____). The wild type leucine residue was substituted with serine by site-directed mutagenesis using the oligonucleotide Vhsr11: 5'-gga ggt ggg agc tct cag gct tat cta cag cag tct ggg gct gag tcg gtc agg cc-3' (SEQ ID NO: ____)(this sequence, or an